



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Thursday
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Inter-Arab Affairs

UMA Foreign Ministers Change Meeting to 2 Sep

LD2908235990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Gulf crisis was also scheduled to be studied tomorrow in Algiers at an emergency meeting of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA] foreign ministers, but, according to an informed source, this meeting has been postponed until Sunday, 2 September.

ACC Session Postponed; Member Withdrawal Denied

JN3008082390 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Aug 90 p 20

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Dr. Hilmi Nammar, Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] secretary general, has stated that the member states were informed that the ACC Ministerial Committee's meetings, scheduled to be held on the prime minister level in Amman on 8 September, have been postponed until further notice.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Nammar said this means the meeting of the ACC heads of state, scheduled in Baghdad for early October, will be delayed in view of the current situation in the Gulf.

Dr. Nammar added that there is absolutely no truth to the reports saying that one of the member states plans to withdraw from the ACC. He said all member states, with the exception of the Republic of Yemen, have paid their share in the ACC budget, and that the fourth and final installment of the current year's budget of \$1.5 million is due in October.

Officials Arrive for Foreign Ministers' Conference

Klibi, Ministers From Four States

NC2908204690

[Editorial report] In a series of Cairo-dated reports carried on 29 August, Cairo MENA in English reports on the arrival of various officials to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference which is scheduled to open on 30 August. At 1751 GMT MENA reports: "Lebanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Salim al-Huss arrived here this evening to attend the emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers which is due to start tomorrow evening. Al-Huss was received by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid."

At 1755 GMT, MENA notes: "Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here tonight to attend the conference of the Arab foreign ministers due to start here tomorrow evening." MENA adds that al-Shar' was also welcomed by 'Abd-al-Majid.

At 1757 GMT, MENA reports: "Minister of Interior in Djibouti Khairi al Mali [name as received], deputizing for the foreign minister, arrived here this evening to

attend the emergency conference of Arab foreign ministers which is due to start tomorrow evening."

At 1800 GMT, MENA reports: "Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir arrived here tonight to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference due to start here tomorrow. The Qatari minister was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid."

At 1850 GMT, MENA reports: "Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, arrived here tonight to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to begin tomorrow." Klibi, who was welcomed by 'Abd-al-Majid, "declined to make any press statements," MENA adds.

Omani First Foreign Under Secretary

NC2908180790 Cairo MENA in English 1703 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo August 29 MENA—Haytham Tar al-Sa'ad Omani first foreign under secretary, arrived here today to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference slated for tomorrow. In an arrival statement the Omani official pointed out that his country adopted a firm stance towards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This stance, he said, conforms with the Arab League resolutions which call for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it. The Omani guest was welcomed at the airport by Samir Mukhtar, deputy director of the protocol department at the foreign ministry.

Moroccan, Saudi Foreign Ministers

NC3008072190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2308 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali arrived in Cairo this evening to participate in the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting slated to be held on 30 August.

In an arrival statement, Filali expressed regret over the deportation to Baghdad of the staff members of the Moroccan Embassy in Kuwait and their treatment as ordinary citizens. He expressed the hope that a peaceful solution will be achieved despite the differences with Iraq.

To a question about the expulsion from Morocco of two Iraqi Ba'th Party members who had arrived in the country to contact Moroccan political parties, Minister Filali said their presence and contacts exceeded all limits, adding that the circumstances were not suitable for such contacts. He denied that the Iraqi party members were diplomats in the Iraqi Embassy, noting that the purpose of their visit was devoted to party activities.

Minister Filali was received by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

[At 0558 on 30 August in another Cairo-dated item, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds, "Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo early this

morning to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to be held later today.

"In an arrival statement, Prince al-Faysal said that the basic solution to the current Gulf crisis is in the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimate government there. If we remember that, and if concerted international effort is exerted in that direction, there will be hope for the solution of that crisis, he said.

"Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Nihad 'Asqalanai and As'ad Abu-al-Nasr, Saudi ambassador to Cairo, welcomed the Saudi foreign minister at the airport."

Four Delegations Walk Out of Federation Meeting

NC2908160290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 29 Aug (MENA)—Labor union delegations from Egypt, Kuwait, Syria, and the Sultanate of Oman last night withdrew from the meetings of the central council of the International Federation of Arab Labor Unions, following a heated debate over the draft resolutions prepared by an ad hoc committee. The four delegations rejected the draft resolutions because these contained no reference to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The delegation of the Egyptian Labor Unions Congress, which was led by Anwar 'Ashmawi, deputy chairman of the congress, had presented the council with a memorandum containing four points: the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the restoration of normal life in Kuwait, the settlement of disputes through bilateral dialogue within the Arab framework, and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region.

Sources said that the vote on the draft resolution was illegal because only eight members voted in favor of it after the four countries had withdrawn. This means the resolution was approved by less than half of the 19-member council.

Gulf Foreign Intervention Condemned

LD2908174190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Central Council of the Federation of Arab Trade Unions, following the end of its proceedings held in Tunis, condemned the foreign intervention in the Arab Gulf and called for lifting the blockade against the Arab people in Iraq, and finding a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, without any foreign intervention and within the framework of the Arab League Charter.

The drafting of the final communique which was approved was accomplished by a special committee established for this purpose [and composed] of representatives from Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Jordan, and the General Secretariat of the International Federation of Arab Trade Unions. Tunis has been elected the headquarters of this committee. The withdrawal of the delegations from Kuwait, Egypt, and

Syria, and the representative of the Sultanate of Oman during the discussion of this communique and before it was put to the vote was recorded.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a cable from the Council in which it expressed, on behalf of workers in the Arab world, the best feelings of consideration for his excellency the president for his firm stand towards the Arab nation's causes, in particular, toward the situation in the Arab Gulf.

Islamic Affairs

World Islamic Council Denounces Saudi Arabia

LD2908160190 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 29, IRNA—The World Islamic Council (WIC), an organization of Sunni 'ulema, today denounced the Saudi Arabian regime for calling the "anti-Islamic U.S. troops," in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis, to Arabia. "where the two most important holy shrines (Mecca and Medina) are located."

Council Chairman Sayed Shaha Mohammad Yahya, in a statement said that "by calling in the U.S. forces for protection the Saudi rulers have violated the unchangeable laws of Islam." He said that the council considers that the Saudi action has hurt the sentiments of world Muslims, and demanded that the U.S. troops be withdrawn immediately and differences between Kuwait and Iraq be resolved under the light of the Islamic teachings.

"It was regrettable that the Army of the U.S., which supports the illegal Zionist regime occupying holy Baitul Muqaddas, the first Qibla of Muslims, was invited to the land of two other most important holy places—Mecca and Medina. With this act, the Saudi rulers have committed a black treason against Islam," Yahya said.

The council also warned the United States that several holy places including Karbala, Najaf, Mosul and Baghdad, the centres of faith of Shi'a and Sunni Muslims exists in Iraq. If, in the wake of the U.S. initiated war, these holy places come under attack, the feelings of the world Muslims will be hurt and the "world Islamic force would retaliate by turning the palaces of pro-Zionist rulers of the region and the White House into a graveyard," said the statement.

The WIC chairman further said that by calling the U.S. troops, the Saudi rulers have lost the confidence of world Muslims and it has become necessary that they "hand over custody of the two holy shrines to the Islamic world and vacate the holy land of Hejaz and go to Najd and Riyadh to protect their un-Islamic kingdom." The World Islamic Council comprising twenty-one members from the distinguished Sunni 'ulema was founded in 1985 to counter the anti-Islamic conspiracies in the world. Having its head office in India, the WIC has got branch offices in Mauritius, South Africa, United Kingdom and Holland.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Message in Geneva on Gulf Initiative

LD2908232590 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Message from PLO President Yasser 'Arafat to seventh international conference of the United Nations Nongovernmental Organizations being held at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, read by Nabil al-Ramlawi on behalf of 'Arafat in Geneva on 29 August, PLO representative in Geneva; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] It is regrettable that Israel, the occupation authority, is escalating, under cover of the Gulf crisis, its bestial practices against our people. The government born out of the political crisis in Israel represents the most extreme form of racism and a mentality of expansion, aggression, and racial superiority. It includes a group of war-crazy people, those who openly advocate plans for the expulsion of our people from its land, and those who are possessed by the illusions of the folly of power and racist superiority. [passage omitted]

Dear sisters, brothers, and friends, your venerable conference is being held today while the region is going through a very acute problem in the Gulf, which may explode at any moment in a destructive war reaching all, destroying all, and leaving land devastated. All of this can happen if we do not achieve reason, and the logic of politics, diplomacy, and dialogue does not prevail over the logic of armed force and the language of massing fleets and armies, which are massing in the Gulf in an unprecedented manner in the history of modern warfare.

Therefore, I would like to state to you the attitude of the PLO since the outbreak of the crisis and to this day, because this attitude is being subjected to a campaign of distortion and of casting doubts aimed at harming the PLO and the Palestinian people. Our attitude is to work with all our capabilities to find a peaceful solution to the problem, based on the principles of international legitimacy and the UN, through the commitment to dialogue, negotiation, and the readiness to present solutions that preserve the dignity of all and that preserve the rights of all. This was our objective before the outbreak of the crisis and at the Arab summit conference held in Cairo; it remains our attitude to this day.

We did our utmost for success of the Arab summit conference, which was urgently called by Egypt with the participation of Iraq and Kuwait, and we were successful in achieving this objective. We also proposed setting up a committee of kings and presidents through a conference resolution, to discuss all matters with the Iraqi leadership, including the status of Kuwait. We proposed that this committee consist of Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Yemen, Palestine, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, should it so desire. But this proposal was not put to a vote, despite its importance. Also, similar proposals were not put to the vote. We believe the importance of this matter stems from the need to

take into consideration that this committee or similar ones within the Arab context are the decisive means of solving the issue and driving away the ghost of war, to avoid detonating the crisis.

Regrettably, an unjust and ugly campaign was waged against the PLO, the Palestinian leadership, and the Palestinian people because they had adopted this attitude which calls for a peaceful negotiated solution to the crisis within the Arab context, to spare the region the calamities of war and destruction. The PLO was subjected to a campaign of doubts cast on its attitudes and peaceful line. At the same time the declared policies adopted by the Israeli Government against our people, which it implements through the military forces of occupation and the terrorist militias of armed settlers, policies of the iron fist; breaking of bones; and killings with live, plastic, and rubber bullets and all types of weapons, including internationally banned chemical weapons which caused more than 7,000 women to miscarry, and which include collective detention and expulsions, attacks on hospitals and Islamic and Christian holy places, in addition to the expropriation of land and water resources and the building of Jewish settlements on our land and the settling of Soviet and other Jewish immigrants on it; within a comprehensive plan adopted by the Israeli Government to expel our people from its homeland—the transfer plan—by creating Greater Israel, continues.

This distorted campaign has not and will not stop us from continuing our efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and in the region. In this context our political movement has relied on a number of principles which we have crystallized in the form of an initiative which we have submitted to the leaders of a number of sisterly and friendly countries. We have sent it to the permanent members the UN Security Council, including the United States, the UN Security Council president, the UN secretary general, the European troika, and the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

These principles are:

1. The PLO will play a mediating role in this conflict. It is not a party to it and does not take sides with one party against another. Hence our vote of reservation regarding the Arab League resolution, because it focused on condemnation and ignored any form of settlement.
2. The settlement of all the pending and chronic problems in the Middle East, whether in the Gulf, Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon, or the Golan. This has actually begun with the withdrawals [of troops] between Iraq and Iran. However, through resolution, that could be applied to the other issues in Palestine, Lebanon, Golan, and also Kuwait.
3. A solution in the Gulf must be achieved within the Arab framework in order to reach a negotiated settlement that would take into account the rights and interests of all parties, and which will safeguard everyone's honor, as was the case in Lebanon and the Al-Ta'if Arab formula for it.

4. The withdrawal of U.S. and other foreign forces from the Gulf region, and their replacement with international forces under the UN banner, and within its framework, without any obscurity or ambiguity.

5. To suspend all sanctions imposed on Iraq, and implement them against any country that refuses to withdraw from territories it is occupying.

With this initiative we are trying to bolster the international legitimacy represented by the United Nations, because it is the appropriate place for resolving disputes and for settling regional and international conflict in accordance with the principles and objectives stipulated by the UN Charter and international law. We are also endeavouring through this initiative to avoid the use of military force and a military solution in dealing with the complex issues in the region. The escalation of a military buildup by land, sea, and air does not serve peace, dialogue, or a reaching of understanding between the disputing parties. On the contrary, the buildup in that concentration bears the dangers of turning any dispute into an armed clash which may quickly turn into an overall war that would cause destruction and devastation, not only to the region but to the whole world, with the consequential catastrophic effect to world peace. On the basis of this, we are saying that there is a political solution to the Gulf crisis that would extinguish the fires of war, rise above its drums, and serve the interests of peace in the region and the world.

The Gulf crisis clearly exposes the general bias of successive U.S. governments toward Israel from 1948 to the present. This bias is reflected through the selective policy and the policy of a double standard followed by the United States, regarding the United Nations, its charter, the Security Council—its role, the mechanism, of its action, and resolution—and toward the principles of justice, law, and international will. It is regrettable that the United States works to subjugate the United Nations and international will in order to serve its national interests as a superpower, and the interests of its ally, Israel. Successive U.S. governments have offered their unlimited support in all spheres to Israel, to its crimes, to its aggression, and its occupation, which has enabled it to continue its occupation of Palestinian territories and other Arab territories occupied since 1967. It is also a point which has contributed to the hindering of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from these occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, on the basis of the principle of the inadmissibility of taking others' territory by force.

For 23 years, the U.S. Government has not attempted to work toward the implementation of this resolution. But for instance, it has amassed fleets and concentrated mighty armies by air, sea, and land and has equipped them with various conventional and tactical nuclear weapons on the pretext of implementing Security Council Resolution 660, which calls for the withdrawal

of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and Resolution 661, which calls for the implementation of sanctions against Iraq.

Among the strange contradictions in U.S. policy in the Middle East is that the U.S. Government at the end of May 1990 vetoed a Security Council draft resolution calling for the sending of a fact-finding mission to study the deteriorating situation in the occupied Palestinian territories; it even rejected the dispatch of UN observers as one of our demands to provide the necessary international protection for our people in the occupied territory. Rather, it used the veto right seven times in one year to protect Israel, the occupying authority, and provided it with the necessary cover for its crimes and oppressive actions against our people. And you see it today in the Gulf: not content with mobilizing its military forces, but instigating other states to take part in the military mobilization and the military presence there. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, despite the Gulf crisis, the Palestinian issue remains at the top of the UN agenda and points to the wide scope which the United Nations can reach in its work to find a peaceful, just, and negotiated settlement of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue. This is what we strive for, and this is what we have confirmed since the announcement of our peaceful initiative from the rostrum of the United Nations here in Geneva, the initiative which was based on the principles of international legitimacy and its resolutions and which enjoyed the backing, support, and welcome of all the states of the world and its freedom-, justice-, and peace-loving forces, including your respectable nongovernmental organization. [passage omitted]

I would like to confirm here before you once again our support of the principles on which our peace initiative was based, in order to achieve a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem. They are: First, the need to work for the convening of the international conference on peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and within its framework, with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the concerned parties in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO, on an equal basis with the other parties, on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and our people's right to self-determination. Second, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Palestine and other Arab territories. Third, until this is achieved, we demand the provision of international protection for our people under occupation and urge the states of the world to shoulder their responsibilities in this context in accordance with the provisions and articles of the UN Charter and its resolutions. Fourth, urge the states of the world and all the peace-loving forces of the world to contribute to the economic development of our people in the occupied territories to enable them to confront the grave injustice and the intentional and continuing undermining of the

infrastructure of our people resulting from the continuation of the occupation, and to enable them to lay down the foundations of their independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Thank you for your efforts, and I wish you and your conference success, and it is a revolution until victory.

PFLP's Habash 'Disappointed' by Syrian Stance

PM3008083590 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET
in Norwegian 27 Aug 90 p 12

[Report on interview with Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader George Habash by Are Hovdenak: "George Habash Tells ARBEIDERBLADET: No Giving In to Syrian Pressure"; no date given]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Pro-Syrian Palestinians give their full backing to Yasir 'Arafat's alliance with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn—against Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. "We cannot allow ourselves to be pressured by Syria now," radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash said in an interview with ARBEIDERBLADET. [passage omitted]

George Habash received us in a relatively modest basement in a residential neighborhood in Damascus. [passage omitted]

"I am very disappointed over Syria's stance in the Gulf crisis," George Habash said. "Perhaps the Syrian leaders fear that now Saddam Husayn has entered Kuwait, he could also enter Syria. But I think that Syria is making a serious mistake."

The Syrian regime reacted quickly when Habash made his first public criticism, and halted the distribution of the PFLP weekly AL-HADAF, for example.

[Hovdenak] Will relations between the PFLP and Syria become more difficult now?

"Perhaps. But I have told al-Asad many times that I stay in Syria because I think that as an Arab I have a right to be here. It is impossible for us to give in to Syrian pressure," the PFLP leader said.

"Let me make one thing completely clear," Habash said. "We do not support Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. On the other hand, we support the Iraqi president and the Iraqi people against the U.S. invasion of the Arabian Peninsula."

[Hovdenak] Would it not be natural to call for the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait first, since the invasion is the reason why the Americans came?

[Habash] "We have an Arab proverb which says that when a destructive animal comes onto your land you drive it away. So we are not asking why the animal came here—first we get rid of it. And the alien destructive creature in the Gulf is the United States. If the Americans pull out, we want the Iraqis to do the same. We want the Kuwaitis themselves—not the amirs—to determine Kuwait's future."

The PFLP leader is aware that Palestinian support for Saddam Husayn has met with little understanding in the West.

"I have to admit that we have not explained the Gulf crisis in a way that helps public opinion in the West to understand us. But with time I nevertheless think that you will discover the Americans' enthusiasm for the Kuwaitis is based not on democratic principles but on their own U.S. interests. If the administration in Washington really is opposed to occupations for reasons of principle, why has it supported the Israeli occupation for 23 years? That is the reason why our people smile when the Americans talk about law and justice."

"You will also discover that the U.S. involvement is an attempt to preserve its position as leader of the capitalist world."

George Habash stressed that there is a widespread view among Arabs that the oil riches in the Gulf do not belong to the Gulf states, but are the property of the whole Arab world.

"We know that neither Western public opinion nor the United Nations can swallow such an idea, but our peoples are witnesses to the fact that the amirs in the Gulf have billions, while there are Jordanians who are starving. One of our goals is that the age of these emirates should come to an end," Habash said, adding that the regimes should be removed by the people themselves—not by Saddam Husayn.

[Hovdenak] Have you any comment on the Western press comparison of Saddam Husayn with Adolf Hitler?

"The comparison is stupid and groundless," Habash replied, rejecting the suggestion that Saddam has or had any plans to invade other countries in the region.

"He was forced to invade Kuwait. The Gulf states were in the process of putting a stranglehold on him. With their demands of money from Iraq, they were trying to prevent Saddam from rebuilding the country," Habash said, pointing to the enormous debts which Iraq brought on itself during the war against Iran and which, before the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam demanded that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia partly write off.

George Habash does not believe the Gulf crisis will develop into a joint Arab war against Israel—something that many Palestinians want.

"If it were possible, nothing would be better. It is something that I do want, but I also use my head. The balance of power in the region still gives me no hope of such a development."

[Hovdenak] Saddam says that he can "burn half of Israel."

[Habash] "Burning half of Israel is one thing—liberating Palestine is another."

"But it is good—very good—that the Israelis know there is an Arab country that is in a position to burn half of Israel," the PFLP leader said.

Habash thinks that the best, most realistic outcome of the conflict for which he can hope is that Saddam and Iraq are not beaten down by the United States, that the question of Kuwait's future finds a democratic solution, and that the Palestinian uprising on the West Bank and in Gaza continues—with support from all Arab countries.

"This is the maximum I can expect at the present time," Habash said.

The former PLO troublemaker confirmed that the groups in the Palestinian movement now stand more united than they ever did in the eighties. He claimed that both the intifadah and the Gulf crisis have brought the Palestinians together.

Asked what consequences he thinks it would have had for the PLO if Yasir 'Arafat had chosen to stand with Egypt—with which 'Arafat has had close contacts for several years—the PFLP leader replied:

"That would have meant the certain end of Yasir 'Arafat as chairman of the PLO. The Arab masses are agreed on that."

PFLP Calls for Confronting U.S. Gulf Forces

JN3008105590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, 30 Aug (INA)—In Beirut, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has called "for studying all ways to confront the U.S. forces that seek to occupy the Arab oil fields and recolonize the region."

The Front said Arab silence on the Zionist desecration of Jerusalem has encouraged the U.S. Administration to send its forces to the sacred places.

Hawatimah Urges Unity Against U.S. Presence

JN3008104790 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Aug 90 Second Edition p 14

[Text] Amman—Nayif Hawatimah, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine secretary general, has urged the Arab nationalist forces to unite to support Iraq against the U.S. aggression. He also called for postponing the Arab foreign ministers' meeting scheduled to begin in Cairo today.

In a press release, Hawatimah said this meeting will deepen the Arab divisions that emerged during the recent Cairo summit after resolutions which had not received Arab unanimity were enforced.

Hawatimah also urged Arab nationalist forces to close ranks to confront the U.S. aggression and support fraternal Iraq vis-a-vis the blockade and the imperialist intervention in the region.

OPEC Affairs

Additional Oil Forecast in 3-4 Weeks

AU2908201690 Paris AFP in English 1959 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Vienna, Aug 29 (AFP)—The oil market is likely to remain "static" for some time, with prices for "physical" oil likely to settle at around 24 dollars a barrel until extra OPEC crude starts moving, European-based Arab oil executives said here late Wednesday. Commenting on the implications of OPEC's announcement of steps to boost production, they said this might take three to four weeks. This meant that additional supplies from the major Gulf producers and Venezuela should begin to have an impact on the market in the second half of September, with shipments reaching destinations about 30 days or more later.

Kuwait's finance minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, commenting on OPEC's decisions, told reporters that "we do not want the prices to go below 21 (dollars a barrel) and do not want them higher than 21."

Independent oil consultant Bahman Karbassian meanwhile told AFP the direct effect of the OPEC agreement on the market would be "minimal." "The prices are moved by the Gulf crisis," he said. "When the risk of war built up, prices went up by over 10 dollars" but they came down by over half that amount on a "slight indication that maybe military conflict is at least postponed." "If tomorrow tensions increase, you will see a similar increase in prices again," Mr Karbassian said. "If war actually breaks out, I would not be surprised if prices go above 40 dollars."

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Details OPEC Accord

AU2908115090 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Herbert Hutter report on news conference held by Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah in Vienna on 29 August; al-Sabah statements in English with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] At the OPEC conference in Vienna, which concluded a few minutes ago, all OPEC members, except for Libya and Iraq, were represented.

In an improvised news conference a few minutes ago, Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah, finance minister of invaded Kuwait and son of the emir, explained the result of the extraordinary OPEC conference in Vienna's Marriott Hotel.

According to Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah, the main purpose of the meeting was to increase OPEC oil production and to balance the shortfall in supplies from Iraq and Kuwait. Such a decision is the first part of today's OPEC agreement.

Then the main point, that is the decontrol of the output of all OPEC member, was addressed.

[Begin al-Sabah recording] The most important part of the agreement is the second part, which gives complete freedom to all OPEC countries to increase their production as much as they can, in order to balance the present shortfall in supplies. I hope that this will result in a further reduction of the oil price, that is, to the level on which we agreed in Geneva last month, namely \$21 per barrel.

I hope that all other countries will also participate with their strategic reserves so that we can break the psychology that exists today in the market. Later these strategic reserves can be refilled. [end recording]

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah thanked OPEC and the international community of states for the help for his invaded country and violently attacked Iraq by comparing it to Hitler and Ceausescu.

Algeria

Envoy To Participate in Cairo Arab League Talks

LD2908150490 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 29 Aug (APS)—It has been learned from an informed source that Algeria will take part in the Arab League Council meeting due to be held in Cairo tomorrow, Thursday. Algiers will be represented at this meeting by its ambassador to Cairo.

It should be recalled that Algeria is hosting the Arab Maghreb Union Foreign Ministers' Council meeting on 30 August. This meeting will enable the Maghrebian foreign ministers to discuss ways and means likely to contribute to the lessening of tension in the Gulf, and to strengthen the Arab ability to find a solution to the Gulf crisis.

Jordan's Husayn Assesses Visit, Cooperation

LD2908202190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Within the Arab effort to solve the Gulf crisis politically, and after visiting our country, King Husayn left Algeria today. Before that, the Jordanian monarch evaluated this visit. Ahmed Boushema is at the microphone:

[Begin recording] [Boushema] In light of recent developments in the Gulf area, do you think that your initiative will be difficult to realize, and what new has come from your meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid?

[Husayn] This visit to Algeria and my meeting with my brother the president during this tour, in which I also visited a number of the fraternal Arab countries, has given me confidence in the possibility of joint action among ourselves to realize the aim of solving this Arab issue within an Arab framework. I will do as much as I can; in fact, every time I visited the brothers I did not put forward an initiative. The operation was one to exchange viewpoints which are, in all cases, in agreement and harmony. I have great hope that we will reach the situation we desire, which is imposed by the circumstances and their sensitivity and the interest [word indistinct] of the homeland. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Departs for Mauritania

JN2908181990 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] His majesty the king left Algiers today for Mauritania at the end of a two-day visit to Algeria. During his visit to Algeria, his majesty held talks with President Chadli Bendjedid on the Gulf crisis and means of finding a peaceful solution within the Arab fold.

In a pre-departure statement, his majesty said his current tour to Arab countries comes within the framework of exchanging views and coordinating attitudes among Arab states, so as to avoid military confrontation and foreign intervention in the Middle East area.

Italian Foreign Minister De Michelis Arrives

LD2908124790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] In the context of diplomatic efforts in Algiers, the head of Italian diplomacy and current chairman of the EEC Foreign Ministers' Council arrived in Algiers today to give fresh momentum to the diplomatic efforts being made to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, according to reliable sources in Algiers.

Received by Bendjedid

LD3008104990 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 30 August (APS)—The Italian foreign minister, Gianni De Michelis, was received yesterday by President Chadli Bendjedid. By the end of the audience, De Michelis declared that Chadli Bendjedid conveyed to him interesting clarification on the Algerian point of view as regards the situation in the Gulf. Head of the Italian diplomacy added that in his capacity of head of the EEC and President Chadli Bendjedid as head of the Arab Maghreb Union, both countries decided to maintain the contacts so as to reach a political and diplomatic solution of the Gulf crisis. It is worth recalling that De Michelis arrived here yesterday. His visit comes within the frame of a tour to the Maghreb.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud Al-Faysal Arrives

LD2908201290 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Within the context of the efforts being exerted at more than one level to solve the Gulf crisis, we mark today the arrival of Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, and his Italian counterpart De Michelis, in Algeria, where they had talks in this context with President Chadli Bendjedid.

Delivers Message From King Fahd

LD2908201790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to his brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria. The message was conveyed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, when he was received by President Chadli in Algeria today. The meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the Saudi Ambassador to Algeria, and the Algerian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Comments on Stronger Arab Efforts

LD2908234190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The head of Saudi diplomacy made the following statement after his meeting with the [Algerian] president of the Republic:

[Begin Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal recording] I had the honor today to convey a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. As you know, bilateral relations are close and have a history; relations between the two leaders are also close and they include some fruitful cooperation in all issues. Therefore, it was necessary, now that the Arab nation is facing this ordeal—and we call it an ordeal in the full sense of the word—that consultations take place between the two leaderships. I believe the stand of the two countries toward the catastrophe brought about by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is the same one, namely, that such a thing cannot be accepted within an Arab framework.

We hope this subject will be resolved within our Arab framework on the foundations and the bases acknowledged by the Arab charters and the Arab resolutions, be they those of the Arab League and the [Arab] summit, or the international resolutions [as heard], that is, the withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the return to a normal situation, and the return of legitimacy to Kuwait. In this respect, we hope Arab efforts will be intensified in this context to reach the desired solution that will restore to the Arab body its health [as heard] and restore Arab relations and the Arab structure which has now seen the collapse of one of its walls. [end recording]

ANC's Nelson Mandela on Talks With Bendjedid
LD3008112190 Algiers APS in English 1023 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 30 August (APS)—“I have informed the president of the Republic on the latest political development in the country particularly those concerning the second meeting between the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African Government,” the ANC vice chairman [title as received], Nelson Mandela, declared at the end of his audience Wednesday [29 August] by President Chadli Bendjedid.

Mandela also indicated that he informed the president of the Republic on the next step of the normalization of the political situation in the country and which will be that of the election of people who will be in charge of drafting a non racial constitution for the country. “I have also informed President Chadli Bendjedid on the situation of violence prevailing in the country and which the whites consider as violence between blacks killing each other. The white policemen are helping Inkatha in order to crush the ANC which they consider as a threat against white supremacy. But, he said, we are a very strong and determined political organization. The ANC has obliged the South African Government to put an end to violence, at least for the time being,” he concluded.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Receives Shevardnadze Message
NC3008103790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a private meeting at Cairo airport today with Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov. The Soviet ambassador conveyed a message from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on developments in the Gulf region.

'Abd-al-Majid, Sabah Hope for "Sufficient Quorum"
NC3008112690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0934 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived in Cairo this morning to attend the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers.

In an arrival statement, the Kuwaiti minister said that the foreign ministers will discuss a report prepared by the Arab League's secretary general to assess the 15 days that have elapsed since the emergency summit meeting was held in Cairo.

Shaykh Sabah added: We will listen to all the points of view. We hope that there will be a sufficient quorum to hold the meeting and we hope that the meeting will be successful.

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the goal of the meeting is to hear a report from Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi on the measures taken by the Cairo emergency summit.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the foreign ministers' meeting is a good opportunity to exchange views, adding that we have great hopes the quorum for the meeting will be met.

Ghali Returns With Message From Mitterrand
NC2908184990 Cairo MENA in English 1749 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, August 29 (MENA)—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali returned home this evening from Paris following a two-day visit to France during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to French President Francois Mitterrand dealing with developments in the situation in the Gulf region. Following his return, Dr. Ghali said that he was carrying a message from the French president in reply to President Mubarak's message. He added that he met in Paris with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to review developments in the Gulf and bilateral relations.

Dr. Ghali said that he conferred with Minister of Francophone Affairs and International Cultural Relations

Alain Decaux on the establishment of the Francophone university for African development which will be opened in next November in Alexandria.

Dealing with the gulf crisis, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that there is a joint stance by Egypt and France. He stressed the importance of consultations for the implementation of Security Council resolutions on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of the situation to what it has been before August 2.

Dr. Ghali said that Egypt is earnestly working for containing the crisis and hope in a peaceful settlement even if the hopes are slight.

Asked about the mission of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and his expected meeting in Amman tomorrow with Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Dr Ghali said, "Egypt will be among the first countries that welcome the success of Perez de Cuellar's mission".

On the meeting of Arab foreign ministers tomorrow in Cairo and the importance of this Arab groupin the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs said, "the meeting comes in implementation of the resolutions of the recent emergency Arab summit in Cairo".

He added that the Cairo summit asked Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi to submit a report to the foreign minister explaining the measures taken to implement the summit's resolution.

Saudi Crown Prince Phones Mubarak 29 Aug

NC2908204590 *Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
2000 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz contacted President Husni Mubarak by telephone today. They reviewed the current situation in the Arab arena and the challenges facing the Arab world.

The Saudi crown prince also held two telephone conversations with King Hassan II of Morocco and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Cabinet Discusses Gulf Developments, Effects

NC2908205390 *Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
1730 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a meeting under Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi this evening to review the latest developments in the Gulf and to follow up on the measures adopted to ensure and facilitate the return of the Egyptians from Kuwait and Iraq. The cabinet also discussed the rapid and serious events on the Arab and international levels as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait as well as the principled position Egypt has taken since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis; namely, the need for the full withdrawal of Iraqi troops, the return of legitimacy, and respect for the Kuwait people's will.

This came in a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, who added that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, presented a full report to the cabinet in this respect. The cabinet underscored the need to continue efforts to find a peaceful political settlement and to respect the resolutions of the Security Council, the emergency Arab summit, and the Islamic Conference Organization issued in this respect. The cabinet reviewed the Arab initiatives and contacts at the level of the political leaders as well as the topics to be discussed during the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo tomorrow to follow up on the implementation of the Arab summit resolutions.

The information minister said that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to Moscow and his meeting with President Gorbachev and the Soviet foreign minister. He pointed out that the two sides' views were identical regarding the condemnation of the aggression against Kuwait and the need for Iraqi troops to withdraw, for legitimacy to be restored in Kuwait, for all efforts to be exerted to spare the region the dangers and consequences of a military confrontation, and for the Security Council resolutions to be respected. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also discussed the effects of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on the Palestinian issue, and the risks of reshuffling the cards over this issue and of pushing it into the arena of conflicts and one-upmanship. The cabinet stressed Egypt's desire to return the Palestinian issue to the world stage.

The cabinet discussed the crisis' effects on a number of economic issues, foremost among them the price of oil, revenue from tourism, the fulfillment of trade agreements between Egypt and a number of Arab and foreign countries, and cooperation with regional and international economic institutions.

Editor on Saddam Attempt To Bribe Mubarak

NC2908212190 *Cairo MENA in Arabic* 1913 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Press writer Makram Muhammad Ahmad, chief editor of AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, says that two days before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent \$50 million to President Husni Mubarak "to help the Egyptian economy over its difficulties." The writer adds that President Mubarak was surprised when this sum of money unexpectedly arrived at the height of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis.

The writer asks what the Iraqi president intended by this. Did he think he was offering this money to Egypt as a guarantee of its involvement in the spoils which the Iraqi president was planning to seize? Did he ever think that the arrival of this sum at this particular time, on the pretext of helping the Egyptian economy over its difficulties, would embarrass Egypt and perhaps prevent it

from expressing its frank opinion and condemning the invasion, which took place two days later?

In his article in AL-MUSAWWAR under the headline "The Rich Arabs and the Poor Arabs," Makram says that President Mubarak refused to deposit this money in the state treasury. He deposited it in the Central Bank to cover any shortfalls in Iraq's repayment of what it owes Egypt. [passage omitted]

The writer says that the Iraqi president failed in his attempt to tempt Egypt to hold its tongue regarding the aggression, as Egypt refused to join him in carving up the spoils. Therefore, he concentrated his efforts on trying to deceive the Arab public with slogans about social justice between rich Arabs and poor Arabs in order to stir up the Arab people. The writer points out that the Egyptian people were not deceived by these false slogans. The Arab public also understood their meaning. [passage omitted]

The AL-MUSAWWAR chief editor calls on the Gulf states not to turn inward and disregard the problems of the Arab world as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He says that they must realize that the invasion of Kuwait is a transient event which is not in line with the spirit of the age and history. It is a singular gamble which is destined to fail. They must also realize that the foreign presence was an emergency solution dictated by the Iraqis. They must also realize that the foreign presence was an emergency solution dictated by the Iraqi president's insistence on closing all doors to the optimal solution. It is not a guarantee for security and a guarantee for the future.

Makram Muhammad Ahmad says in conclusion that the guarantee of security and the future is for the rich Arabs and the poor Arabs to realize the need for an Arab capability that can defend Arab security. Comprehensive Arab development is important to achieving a degree of social stability that can safeguard the area's security and its political stability.

Iraqi Media's Comments on Mubarak Criticized

NC2908211190 *Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic*
1740 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: "An Incorrect Reading of Correct Positions"]

[Text] As usual, President Mubarak has been frank and clear in pointing out the dimensions, developments, and future outlook of the Gulf crisis. He disclosed some of the secrets of the Cairo summit, which endeavored to find an honorable solution that could save the Arab nation from devastation. However, Iraqi media organs have found nothing to comment on about President Mubarak's news conference except to say that in his review of the events, the Egyptian president disregarded President Saddam Husayn's peaceful initiative and did not talk about it in detail, despite the fact that this initiative attracted the attention of all diplomatic and media circles worldwide, as the Iraqi media put it.

We do not know how Iraqi media personnel read world reaction to President Saddam Husayn's initiative, in which he demanded the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories and of Syrian troops from Lebanon before Iraq would consider the issue of Kuwait as an Arab issue like the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and other issues for which solutions have long been sought. The truth is that nobody in the world took President Saddam Husayn's initiative seriously. Instead, it was viewed as an attempt to circumvent the world's demand for a withdrawal from Kuwait, and for that reason, President Mubarak did not find the time suitable for repeating talk about Iraqi maneuvers to distract attention from Iraq's annexation of Kuwait. In his press conference, President Mubarak concentrated on one thing: That the war into which Saddam is pushing Iraq along with the Arab nation is an extremely serious issue, and that Saddam is duty bound to avert any confrontation with the world so he will not cause human, economic, and cultural ruination to Iraq.

For the Iraqi media to imagine that President Mubarak deliberately ignored Saddam's peace initiative because it demands Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories—something that could anger Israel and the United States—is nonsense that does not measure up to the situation and the difficult circumstances we are experiencing.

In its Arab moves, Egypt takes into consideration Arab public interests alone. Never did Egyptian-Israeli, Egyptian-U.S., Egyptian-Soviet, or other relations impede moves in pursuit of Arab interests. We believe that Egypt's return to the Arab League was nothing but a crowning of its clear-cut Arab policy that is free from maneuvers, one-upmanship, and abandonment of the Arab issues. If President Saddam Husayn claims that it was he who returned Egypt to the Arab League, we believe that if he did so knowing Egypt was incapable of looking Israel or the United States straight in the eye, then he did harm to the Arab League and the Arab struggle of which he now claims to be carrying the banner. Anyway, such talk is out of place now and should not distract us from the main issue of robbing Kuwait by armed force, annexing it, and turning it into Iraq's 19th province.

The Iraqi media is required to measure up to the level of the situation and to realize that every word said now will go down on record, because history does not know secrets or compliments. We mention these marginal and futile topics stirred by the Iraqi media only so all Arabs will know how Iraq is handling such a catastrophic issue.

The Iraqi media claims that Mubarak cannot talk about the heroism of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, even by way of comparing him to Saddam Husayn. President Mubarak announced before the whole world in his news conference that there is absolutely no room for comparison between Saddam and 'Abd-al-Nasir. 'Abd-al-Nasir was a nationalist and a liberator from colonialism who did not shed a single drop of blood. Comparing Saddam to 'Abd-al-Nasir is a grave act of injustice and entirely inappropriate. Such talk is quite clear and significant.

However, we would like to add that the Iraqi media is singing the 'Abd-al-Nasir tune in an attempt to exploit a genuine Arab symbol. President Saddam even mentioned in one of his messages that the Gulf countries conspired against 'Abd-al-Nasir as they did against Saddam Husayn. Let us remind those who want to falsify history that 'Abd-al-Nasir was the first one to raise the slogan that Arab oil is for the Arabs. It was 'Abd al-Nasir who stood up to [former Iraqi President] 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim and sent troops when Iraq tried to annex Kuwait after gaining its independence.

Another issue that the Iraqi media is trying to shroud in clouds, imagining it is capable of hiding the bright sunlight, its claim that Egypt is instigating the United States to strike at Iraq. We believe this to be the peak of intellectual bankruptcy and evidence of confusion. Suffice it to say that Egypt has approximately 2 million citizens in Iraq and that any air strike against Iraq is bound to endanger the lives of those Egyptians. Since the life of Egyptians is as precious for us as the life of Iraqis, President Mubarak in this dark night is searching for a ray of hope to reach a peaceful solution, so that no Iraqi might be subjected to the dangers of a destructive war. Mubarak's continued appeals to President Saddam Husayn are only meant to stress Mubarak's sincere desire to save Iraq from itself before it is drowned by the deluge. The Iraqi media's reading of President Mubarak's news conference is an incorrect reading that shows us an important aspect of the tragedy in which Iraq and the Arab nation are living; namely, that all the Iraqi institutions are living in a world different from the one which we fear will explode around us, thus turning our hopes, aspirations, and future into a heap of rubble and debris.

Soviet Economic Delegation Ends Week-Long Visit

NC2908144690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0716 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—A Soviet delegation led by Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov and including Vladimir Shcherbakov, chairman of the State Committee on Labor and Social Problems, and Moscow Mayor Polov [name as received], left Cairo this morning following a week-long visit to Egypt at the invitation of al-Azhar University.

During the visit several seminars were held to discuss economic systems from an Islamic perspective. The seminars discussed such topics as labor, wages, [word indistinct], and commercial transactions.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Nelson Mandela 29 Aug

LD3008061490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution received yesterday, Wednesday evening, the African struggler and holder of al-Qadhdhafi's international human rights award, Nelson Mandela. [passage omitted]

General People's Congress To Convene 1 Sep

LD2908205490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The secretariat of the General People's Congress [GPC] issued Decree No. 67 for 1990 concerning the convening of the GPC in an extraordinary session: Here is the text:

The GPC secretariat: After perusing the document proclaiming the rise of the people's power and Law No. 9 of 1984 concerning the organization of people's congresses, and the general statute of popular congresses, the GPC has decided:

Article 1: The GPC is invited to convene a meeting at 0900 of 11 Safar 1400 after the death of the prophet—corresponding to 1 September 1990—at the People's Hall in Tripoli.

Article 2: This decree is effective from the date of its issue and it will be published in the official gazette and in various media organs.

[Signed] The GPC secretariat.

Jallud Attends Arab People's Congress Meeting

LD2908191490 Tripoli JANA in English 1614 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Hannibal, [August]—JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS Agency—Staff Major 'Abd Al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended yesterday the final session of the emergency national meeting held in Tripoli and called for by the permanent secretariat of the Arab People's Congress.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the current situation in the Arab Gulf and the dangers and impact of foreign intervention on the Arab national security.

Mauritania

Husayn Arrives, Cites 'Foreigners in our Land'

AB2908182790 Nouakchott Domestic Service
in French 1800 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] This afternoon, His Majesty Ibn-Talal I. Husayn, the king of Jordan, arrived in Nouakchott for a visit to our country. The visit is part of his tour of the Maghreb. The Jordanian king was welcomed on arrival by Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee For National Salvation [CMSN], members of the head of state's Civil Affairs and Military Office, the Mauritanian escort delegation, the wali [traditional chief], and the mayor of Nouakchott District.

The national anthems, military honors, and 21 gun salute crowned the welcoming ceremony. Several members of the CMSN, cabinet, and diplomatic corps were present at the airport. A large number of Nouakchott residents came out early this morning to express the

Mauritanian people's high regard and esteem for the head of state's prestigious host.

The Jordanian king, who was very moved by this welcome, thanked the head of the state for the welcome he received in this part of the Arab nation [words indistinct]. In his statement to the press, King Husayn said: Our presence here shows the sincere determination of the Arab nation to meet the challenge it is now facing, that is to say, the presence of foreigners in our land and [word indistinct].

King Husayn said he was happy to carry out this peace mission among his Arab brothers and hopes that it will be successful for the interests of future Arab generations. Talks between the two heads of state will focus on bilateral relations, development of the Arab world, and strengthening relations to preserve the highest interests of our nation, according to the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY.

King Husayn is accompanied by a large delegation, including Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the permanent under secretary of the Royal Office, Said Ben Chati, and his political adviser Salaman Hachmi Aud.

Morocco

Iraqi Officials in Rabat Declared 'Undesirable'

LD2908134990 Rabat MAP in English 1242 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 29 (MAP)—Moroccan Secretary of State to Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Moulay Ahmed Cherkaoui Tuesday [28 August] summoned Iraqi Ambassador to Rabat, Fadil Shahr, to inform him of the Moroccan Government's deep consternation following the illegal measures the Iraqi Government has taken against the personnel of the Moroccan Embassy in Kuwait.

Cherkaoui particularly stressed the illegal nature of these measures, contrary to explicit rules of the Vienna convention regulating the status of diplomats, and to the most elementary traditions of diplomatic practices.

The secretary of state informed the Iraqi ambassador of the Moroccan Government's decision to consider undesirable the presence in Morocco of the delegation of the Iraqi "Ba'th Party," composed of 'Isa Salmane Hamid and Hisham Hasan Ahmad, the officials in charge of African affairs within the Iraqi ruling party.

The delegation had made contacts in Morocco with a view to explaining the Iraqi Government's position concerning the Kuwaiti affair.

The Moroccan Government considers that, if the Iraqi Government's viewpoint could be heard, the acts of those two persons took the form of an interference in the hosting country's internal affairs and thus constitutes a violation of the rules of international law, of the charter of the Arab League and of the Vienna conventions.

Consequently, the Moroccan Government considers undesirable the presence of two officials of the Iraqi Ba'th Party.

This is the minimal measure the Moroccan authorities could take against them.

Communique Deplores Diplomats' Treatment in Kuwait

LD2908140790 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug. 29 (MAP)—The Moroccan Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday [28 August] that the diplomats working in Morocco's Embassy in Kuwait have become "hostages like a number of other foreigners in Iraq prevented from leaving this country" and deplored the way Iraqi authorities treated the embassy staff.

In a communique circulated here Tuesday, the Moroccan Foreign Ministry pointed out that following Morocco's decision to maintain open its embassy in Kuwait in line with its stand of principle considering that Kuwait legality is still in force in accordance with international laws, charters, and customs, Iraqi authorities exerted ceaseless pressures, intimidations and threats against the embassy staff, including the charge d'affaires.

"On August 25, the Moroccan diplomats were forbidden access to the embassy offices and were brutally ordered to close the embassy and to definitively leave Kuwait otherwise measures would be adopted against them," the communique said adding that an Iraqi soldier even threatened with his gun : Moroccan diplomat ordering him to walk, hands up, for a long distance.

"Seeing this inhuman treatment on the part of Iraqi authorities and seeing the kinds and foodstuffs exhausted, the Iraqi authorities having prevented the embassy staff from drawing their deposits from Kuwaiti banks, and being unable to cope with the most basic requirements of life, all the more so since their children and wives were still in Kuwait with them, the embassy staff were led, under threat, to leave Kuwait for Baghdad," the communique stated.

"Once in Baghdad, Iraqi authorities informed the Moroccan diplomats that they were not allowed to leave Iraq, arguing that because of their attitude and of their refusal to abide by Iraqi orders their diplomatic immunity was lifted with the expiry of the deadline set by Iraqi authorities for closing down embassies in Kuwait, a fact meaning that they had become hostages like the other foreigners living in Iraq and not allowed to leave the country," the communique said pointing out further that "one clearly sees to what extent the Moroccan diplomats and all the embassy staff were illtreated by the authorities of an Arab country which has always been bound to Morocco by firm ties, in addition to the fact that this behaviour is a blatant violation of the Vienna convention in relation to the treatment of diplomats."

The Moroccan Foreign Ministry underlined in this regard that "Morocco reserves the right to take the necessary measures against the arbitrary acts of Iraqi authorities and considers, despite all what happened, that its embassy in Kuwait is still open in accordance with international principles and the resolutions of the Arab League and the Security Council."

King Husayn Arrives for Talks on Gulf

JN2908210690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] As part of the intensive diplomatic efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to contain and resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully, his majesty and his accompanying delegation arrived in Rabat this evening from Nouakchott to meet with His Majesty King Hassan II, king of Morocco.

His Majesty King Husayn left Nouakchott this evening following a short working visit to Mauritania, during which he held talks with His Excellency Colonel Maouia Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The talks focused on the situation in the Arabian Gulf in light of the current crisis and the means to stop the escalation and settle the dispute by peaceful means.

The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and senior Mauritanian officials saw his majesty off at Nouakchott Airport.

Holds Talks With King Hassan

LD2908213590 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] King Husayn, his majesty the Jordanian monarch, has begun a visit to our country today as part of his tour of the capitals of the Arab Maghreb Union before going on to Europe, where he is scheduled to hold talks in some European capitals on the developments in the Arab Gulf region.

His Majesty King Husayn was received at Rabat-Sale Airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, who was flanked by his royal highness the crown prince, Prince Sidi Mohamed, and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Hassan II and the Jordanian monarch held one-on-one talks here at King Husayn's place of residence in Rabat. [video shows King Husayn arriving at the airport and being met by Hassan and Princes Sidi Mohamed and Moulay Rachid, inspection of honor guard, Husayn greeting members of the diplomatic corps, Husayn and Hassan sitting and talking in a lounge at Husayn's residence in Rabat]

Sudan

Army Says 20 Rebels Killed in Kurdufan Region

EA3008064890 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 29th August (SUNA)—Twenty rebels were killed in Kaduqli area, Kurdufan Region, when the Popular Defence Forces clashed with them, Army daily "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH" reported Wednesday [29 August]. The paper said three members from the Popular Defence Forces [were] martyred.

Tunisia

President Sends Special Envoys To Discuss Gulf

LD2908171490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Within the framework of the diligent efforts that Tunisia has been making to reach a solution to the Gulf crisis, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has decided to send special envoys to a number of capitals of Arab and foreign countries to hold talks with their leaders and convey to them messages from his excellency.

The list of the head of state's envoys comprises: Chadli Neffati, minister of justice, and Mohamed Moadia, secretary general of the movement of progressive socialists, to Baghdad;

Chadli Neffati, minister of justice, to Riyadh;

Abdallah Kallel, minister of national defense, and Habib Benyahya, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry, to Washington and the United Nations;

Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the Democratic Constitutional Rally, to Moscow;

Mohamed Charfi, minister of education, higher education, and scientific research, to Paris and London;

Daly Jazi, minister of public health, to Rome;

Beji Caid Essebsi, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Political Affairs and Foreign Relations and former foreign minister, to Bonn;

Mahmoud Mestiri, former foreign minister, to Tokyo and Beijing;

And Ahmed Najib Chebbi, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Rally, to Sanaa.

President Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

LD2908235190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpt] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali yesterday evening [29 August] at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud

al-Faysal in the presence of Foreign Minister Habib Boulares and the Saudi Arabian ambassador to Tunisia, Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim.

Following the meeting, Prince Sa'ud Al-Faysal made the following statement: I had the honor of conveying a message from the custodian of the two holy mosques to his brother His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. As is already known, relations between the two fraternal countries and the two leaderships require consultation on all matters, particularly during this crisis we are confronting since the Iraqi intervention in Kuwait. We hope the Arab nation will stand as one and restore the balance and repair the crack which had occurred in the Arab house as a result of this catastrophe. Our hope is that the Arab states will endeavor united to arrive at the objective upheld by Arab and international legality; namely, the departure of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait. If this happens, I believe we would be reforming among ourselves a strong structure, a structure that is stronger than the one before so we can rise to the basic issues we are confronting. [passage omitted]

Karoui, USSR Envoy Discuss Gulf Measures

*LD3008013990 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] Yesterday at the republican palace at Qasbah Premier Hamed Karoui held talks with Mikhail Sytenko, the Soviet roving ambassador and special envoy of the Soviet leadership, in the presence of the Soviet ambassador.

Mr. Sytenko stated after the meeting that the talks dealt with the Gulf crisis, a source of concern to the entire world. He added that it is necessary to take tangible measures to avoid the deterioration of the situation and an imminent outbreak of war. He said should war start it would have serious reflections not only on the area but on the entire world.

The special Soviet envoy explained that it is natural that two friendly countries like Tunisia and the Soviet Union should hold consultations in this connection to discuss the situation and to prepare a plan to prevent the deterioration of the conflict. This is within the framework of international efforts within the UN and also within the framework of dialogue among the Arab states to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

Bahrain

Further on UK Defense Minister's Visit

Foreign Minister Statement

NC3008084490 Paris AFP in English 0817 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, Aug 30 (AFP)—Bahrain has said it favours military action to remove Iraqi troops from Kuwait if a United Nations trade and arms embargo against Iraq fails.

"We cannot leave Kuwait occupied for a long time and just say leave it to sanctions," Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak al-Khalifah said here Wednesday.

"The military option is also open to us. There must be some action, I don't know when, but we have a legitimate right to defend Kuwait if sanctions fail," he said in a pool statement to reporters accompanying British Defence Secretary Tom King.

The United Nations Security Council endorsed an arms and trade embargo against Iraq on August 6 after the August 2 invasion and on Saturday it agreed to allow the use of force to implement the sanctions.

"The occupation of Kuwait is a threat to Gulf Cooperation Council states and we cannot sit without doing anything," the foreign minister said.

Bahrain is a member of the six-nation council, which also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

All of these states—except for Kuwait—have agreed to grant "friendly countries" certain facilities as part of a multinational effort to shore up Gulf defenses.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have in addition allowed the deployment of U.S. troops on their territory.

"We are not speaking about attacking a country. We are speaking about liberating a country," Shaykh Mubarak stressed.

Meets Heir Apparent

NC2908140790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 29 Aug (MENA)—Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahrain's heir apparent and commander in chief of the defense force, met here today with UK Defense Secretary Tom King. The two officials discussed bilateral cooperation and recent developments in the region [words indistinct] the necessity of unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimate authority to that country under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

For his part, the UK secretary expressed his country's support [words indistinct] based on legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad, defense minister and deputy commander of chief of the Bahrain defense force; Chief of Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah; and the UK Ambassador to Bahrain.

Departs 29 Aug

NC2908140490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 29 Aug (WAKH)—UK Defense Minister Tom King left Manama this afternoon following a two-day visit to Bahrain during which he handed a message to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah from UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Amir Meets Kuwaiti Public Works Minister

NC2708105990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0843 GMT
27 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 27 Aug (WAKH)—Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah this morning received Jasim al-Musa, Kuwaiti public works minister, and Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah, governor of the city of al-Ahmadi, who are currently visiting Bahrain. The meeting was attended by His Highness Prime Minister Shaykh Bin-Salman Al Khalifah.

The Kuwaiti minister told WAKH after the meeting that he had been honored to meet their highnesses the amir and the prime minister to convey the greetings, thanks, and appreciation of Kuwaiti Amir His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah for Bahrain's support in its current crisis after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He referred to the multifaceted assistance extended by the government and people of Kuwait to their brothers the Kuwaitis present in Bahrain.

He said the tour he and the al-Ahmadi governor are making follows instructions by his highnesses the amir and the heir apparent to meet with the brother Kuwaitis to investigate their conditions and needs.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah; 'Ali Bin-Khalifah Al Khaifah, assistant under secretary of the interior for emigration and naturalization affairs; Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah; and Faysal Muhammad al-Haji, Kuwait's ambassador in Bahrain.

Prime Minister, Cabinet Review Gulf Crisis

NC2608135990 Mananma WAKH in Arabic 1158 GMT
26 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 26 Aug (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Khalifah chaired an ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers in Manama today.

Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, minister of development and industry and acting minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that his highness the prime minister began the meeting with a review of the latest international developments in the Gulf crisis. His highness expressed his satisfaction with the intensive international efforts, including the UN resolutions, to find [words indistinct] solution and to end the current atmosphere of tension in the region.

His highness also reviewed the results of Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's visit to Bahrain and praised the diplomatic efforts exerted by Pakistan to help find a solution to the crisis and the role Pakistan plays in seeking to restore (security) and stability to the region.

Al-Shirawi added that the council then discussed the subjects on the agenda, including the memorandum submitted by the education minister regarding the situation of the Bahraini students in the universities of Kuwait and Iraq and the need to secure their continued education. The council discussed the preparations for the new academic year.

The council then reviewed a report by the minister of finance on the (National Bank) in which he indicated that there is stability in the banking and financial market in the country and that life has returned to normal.

The council also reviewed how work is proceeding in a number of projects [words indistinct] in accordance with the schedules and programs.

Kuwait

Deputy Prime Minister Welcomes Foreign Support

PM3008091990 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
28 Aug 90 p 6

[Interview with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, spoke to us about his visits to the permanent member states of the UN Security Council. He said: I started my tour with a visit to Washington, where the Americans accorded me a cordial reception. They told me their opinion very frankly and declared that their aim is the liberation of Kuwaiti territory as a whole. Then I

visited Britain and France. They also insist on the restoration of legitimacy in Kuwait and are committed to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

I also visited Yugoslavia, and, proceeding from their leading role in the Nonaligned Movement, they have the same enthusiasm about espousing the resolutions on international legitimacy.

In Beijing, the Chinese leadership's position was good. They told me that they would never be against Kuwait's interests.

I have still not managed to visit the Security Council's fifth member, the Soviet Union. This is because they were waiting for the Iraqi response. They told me they would welcome my visit on Saturday last, but it was a short notice. I hope to be able to visit Moscow shortly. They condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The visit to Iran was a notable landmark in my recent tour. And on this occasion I would like to record my thanks to the Iranian Government for its position on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. My visit to Iran had a special status, because it was opposed by some Shura Council members. But at the government level I encountered an excellent official welcome. I met with Hashemi Rafsanjani, president of the republic, whose stance was good. We thank them for these stances and hope that our future relations will be excellent. Incidentally, I discussed Iranian-Saudi relations with them and found that they had a sincere desire to repair relations and return matters to normal.

[Muhammad] Did the Iranians blame you for your position during the Iraq-Iran war?

[Al-Sabah] We made no apology to them, nor did they raise that point. With regard to our position in support of Iraq during the war, it proceeded from principles in our policy. We are Arabs, and when an Arab sees his Arab brother in need of help, he helps and backs him without any hesitation. But regrettably we must ask: What was the response to that favor, and what was the outcome of our abundant aid to Iraq?

[Muhammad] What are the most important lessons that you will have learned, once the occupation ends and you can return?

[Al-Sabah] That subject will be discussed by the Gulf Cooperation Council states combined. I believe that the Gulf states' policy will change. (Shaykh al-Sabah was content with that and did not explain how that policy will change). [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] In your view, what is the spark which will ignite a war?

[Al-Sabah] The first spark is the occupation of Kuwait and the second is Iraq's rejection of all peace initiatives.

[Muhammad] And what are the possibilities of a war breaking out?

[Al-Sabah] I am less concerned about a war than about the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. And I welcome anyone who can implement these resolutions and liberate Kuwait militarily. And within that framework we welcomed the Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] How are contacts made between the government and the resistance in Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] I would like to be excused from answering that question out of concern for the resistance heroes inside the country. There is continuous fighting between the two sides. And regrettably, the Iraqis' viciousness has increased with the escalation of resistance actions. By the way, the invading Iraqi forces have still not been able to enter some residential areas in Kuwait because these are protected by its young men who are defending their dignity and honor. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] The Kuwaiti Government used to hold its ordinary meeting every Sunday. Do you still observe that tradition?

[Al-Sabah] We hold more meetings now. In fact we are almost in a state of permanent session. There are ministers on official missions abroad. And the finance minister will visit Japan next week. Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, minister of state for foreign affairs, is very busy with constant demarches. And, as you have witnessed, international law is on our side. And there is international unanimity over the implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions, that is 660, 661, and 665. The last one, as you know, sanctioned the use of force to enforce the economic embargo on Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Muhammad] What are the bases of Kuwait's foreign policy at present?

[Al-Sabah] Our policy has not changed. But we will reconsider its position toward the states which have not supported the truth—not toward the peoples of those states, since peoples do not betray even if regimes do. [passage omitted]

Official Views Resistance, Frozen Assets

PM3008103590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Aug 90 p 7

[Unattributed interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How are the ranks of the Kuwaiti popular resistance being organized? Are there contacts with the resistance and who is leading it in Kuwait at present?

[Al-'Awadi] The resistance is being organized from inside Kuwait in cooperation with some young Kuwaiti men and women as well as some Arab and Egyptian brothers. There are no central organizations or commands for the resistance. They all contribute according to their capacities and capabilities. There are committees organizing resistance operations. But regrettably, some Arab elements are collaborating with the Iraqi occupation inside Kuwait. They are elements which can be bought and are exploiting the occupation. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is your opinion of Saddam Husayn's recent statement and his reply to President Husni Mubarak's appeal to him to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Al-'Awadi] There is a big difference between the two statements. Mubarak's statement is clear and is issued by someone who is sincere, cares about the Islamic nation's interests, and feels the responsibility and the seriousness of the situation. Whereas Saddam Husayn's statement, exactly like his previous statements, is merely playing with words. And he continues to apply the method used by thieves and pirates. He continues to insist that the issue is between poor Arab states that are strong and small states that are rich. And, of course, that logic cannot be accepted by anyone who has a conscience, who is morally aware, and who respects international borders, laws, and every state's right to self-determination. In his statements he has repeated the same disgraceful justifications which no Arab or Muslim can accept. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are attempts being made to release the frozen Kuwaiti funds abroad?

[Al-'Awadi] We have started our contacts in that regard, and some friendly states have responded. The objective is to recover our wealth and frozen funds to enable the legitimate Kuwaiti government to support the Kuwaiti community both inside and outside Kuwait in running their daily lives. These states include the United States, Britain, Germany, and Japan. But such procedures take a long time, especially as it was we who demanded that our funds be frozen, so that Saddam would be unable to seize them. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Does the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers have an overview of the rebuilding of Kuwait?

[Al-'Awadi] Yes. We have drawn up an overview and will rebuild everything in a better way, that is through determination and with the help of our brother, especially the Egyptians. This is because those who supported us in our predicament deserve to participate in our progress. As for those who worked against us, Kuwait will not include them in its love and wealth, now that the predicament has revealed to us who is an enemy and who is a friend among Arabs and non-Arabs. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Rulers Said Alerted Before Invasion

JN2708131190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Aug 90 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—Egyptian authorities had tipped off the ruling al-Sabah family at least two hours before the first Iraqi soldiers crossed the border early Aug. 2, and this enabled almost all emiri family members and cabinet ministers to escape by road and air to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, according to sources who were at the Kuwaiti Dasman Palace at the time.

"The palace was informed at 00:10 midnight that an Iraqi invasion was coming and that the invasion force was too massive for anyone to resist or counter at short notice," a source told the Jordan Times. "The information was immediately counter-checked with Kuwaiti intelligence which seemed to be totally surprised," said the source who worked for the emiri family but insisted on anonymity.

"The chief of Kuwaiti intelligence could not confirm or dismiss the tip-off but it appeared to have been decided that no chances were to be taken," according to the source.

"There was pandemonium in the palace, with everyone running around, but several senior members of the royal family appeared to have been ready for such an eventuality, and they were the ones to restore some calm and order," the source said. "Many rushed out in their bedclothes, while others stuffed bags and suitcases with whatever they could find."

"A convoy of limousines was linked up, and the first few cars took off with women of the al-Sabah family, but not all of them, the source said. "Some of them were left behind."

"The emir and his children, at least four cabinet members and families were next, and they were supposed to be joined at the Kuwaiti-Saudi border by other members, including the crown prince and prime minister," according to the source, who insisted that the ruler had left by road to the Saudi border (initial reports from Bahrain said that the emir had arrived in Bahrain and then flew to Saudi Arabia by helicopter).

"Several helicopters also took off simultaneously with the convoy moving towards the Saudi border, apparently with the aim of throwing a red herring to the Iraqis," the source said. The source did not know who were aboard the helicopters.

By 1.15 a.m. the move of the palaces in an around Kuwait City were "empty," and instructions had gone out to all emiri family members and cabinet ministers to rush towards the Kuwaiti-Saudi border. [sentence as published] "It was due to an oversight" that Shaykh Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah, a brother of the emir, was "left behind at the palace," the source said.

"Shaykh Fahd was not supposed to be at the palace that night since he had some engagements somewhere else," according to the source.

A Tunisian who was also working in Kuwait confirmed this account and said when Iraqi soldiers circled the palace in less than two hours after the actual invasion which began at 2.30 a.m. Shaykh Fahd woke up and sought to lead a resistance front from within supported by about 300 palace guards.

According to the Tunisian source, who said he was inside the palace at the time of the attack, "Shaykh Fahd opened fire at the Iraqis with a machinegun and killed or wounded at least 15 before he was killed."

"Some of the Iraqi soldiers had apparently identified Shaykh Fahd and there was some hesitation in opening fire at him," according to the source. "But when he would not stop shooting, they opened fire."

Another North African, who was a nursing orderly at the Emiri Hospital, said Shaykh Fahd's body was brought into the mortuary at 7 p.m. and it bore "a bullet wound in the head and another in the leg."

The North African said the body was still at the mortuary of the Emiri Hospital when he left Kuwait on Aug. 22.

"No one knows it by the name Emiri Hospital anymore," he said. "It has been named the Iraqi National Hospital, and the al-Sabah Hospital is now known as Saddam Hospital."

Ministers Comment on Economy, Resistance

NC2908144090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1042 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, has stressed that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait caused losses of at least 70 percent to the Kuwaiti economy. In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, Dr. al-'Awadi said all citizens who incurred losses as a result of the recent events will be compensated after the crisis is over.

Dr. al-'Awadi said Kuwait had never failed to extend foreign aid, earmarking six percent of its annual income for this purpose. He added that Kuwait is ready to invest its funds in Arab countries even if returns on this investment are only half what could be earned elsewhere. He noted that Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis receive the same treatment in terms of wages, food, and education.

Regarding the damage inflicted on the economy as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Dr. al-'Awadi told AL-AHRAM that the invasion paralyzed economic activity in Kuwait, brought trade to a standstill for both imports and exports, and did tremendous damage to industry, particularly the petrochemical sector.

Asked about the locals, Arabs, and foreigners who suffered losses as a result of the invasion, the Kuwaiti minister said Kuwait's system is in place and a large part of the country's funds is abroad. He noted that once legitimacy is restored to Kuwait, we will be able to resume our economic activity in a short time with the

help of the Kuwaiti funds and property abroad and things will gradually return to normal. Compensation will then be paid to whoever incurred losses as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Asked about the criticism directed against Kuwait that its assistance to Third World countries, particularly Arab countries, was inadequate, Dr. al-Awadi said Kuwait never failed at any time to extend foreign aid. In 1962, Kuwait established the Kuwaiti Development Fund, and Iraq was the first country to benefit from it when it received 30 million Kuwaiti dinars, he added.

Asked whether there will be new methods for Arab cooperation after the return of legitimacy to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti minister said the structure of democracy needs to be radically reconsidered to enable the people to hold their rulers to account through democratic means and to prevent the wealth of countries from being at the disposal of individuals. He added that recent events in the Gulf had indicated that everybody cannot agree on one thing and therefore, it is high time that the Arab countries which are in agreement cooperate politically and economically.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH, Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad praised Egypt's approach toward the crisis and added that it has done more than could be expected. He emphasized that resistance inside Kuwait and Iraq will be stepped up, noting that there are details about the invasion and looting that have not yet been disclosed.

Asked if mediation is possible to resolve the problem, the Kuwaiti minister said: There can be no mediation before the Arab summit and Security Council resolutions are implemented.

Asked about the Kuwaiti resistance and whether it is continuing, effective, and organized, Shaykh Mubarak said there will be a serious escalation in the resistance against the Iraqi occupation financially, morally, and militarily.

Government Reacts to Iraq's Gulf Moves

LD2808130690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] A responsible source at the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has reaffirmed the State of Kuwait's firm position that there is no way out of the current crisis, which has placed the Arab nation close to a destructive explosion, except through the implementation of UN Security Council and Arab League resolutions, which the Iraqi regime insists on ignoring. This is noted in a statement made by a responsible source at the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers.

According to Kuwait Radio this afternoon, the source expressed his confidence that some Arabs who believed in the Iraqi regime's deceitful promises will reassess their position, now that the Iraqi regime's persistent violation

of international conventions and its assault on international legitimacy have become clear to the whole world.

The source described reports of Iraq's issuing a decree declaring Kuwait as a governorate of Iraq as evidence of the regime's disregard and disdain for the international will. The source urged all other countries to bear their historic responsibilities vis-a-vis this flagrant defiance, and called for decisive and necessary measures to be adopted to ensure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Oman

UK Defense Secretary Lauds Country's Cooperation

NC3008104590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0515 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Muscat, 29 Aug (WAKH)—Tom King, UK secretary of state for defense, has said that he arrived in Oman to thank His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman and his government for their cooperation and stand on the Gulf crisis. King said that he also came to inspect the naval, air, and land forces in the Gulf.

Speaking at a news conference in Muscat tonight, the UK secretary expressed his country's concern over the hostages crisis in Iraq. He said: The main issue is that the international community should stand together to work for the implementation of the UN resolutions condemning Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and calling for immediate and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and for restoring the legitimate government to power in Kuwait.

As for the economic embargo on Iraq, the UK defense secretary said: The UN resolution is clear and unambiguous and allows for searching the ships trading with Iraq.

King said that no one wants open hostilities to break out, but all nations are required by the UN Security Council to implement the embargo. However, if Iraq resorts to nuclear weapons, the response will be very painful. He noted that other options are open if the economic embargo does not work.

Cites 'Threat' From MiG's

NC3008083690 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 30 (AFP)—British Defence Secretary Tom King has expressed concern over reports that Iraq has deployed Soviet-made MiG fighters in Yemen, the Gulf News reported Thursday.

The newspaper, in a dispatch from its correspondent in Muscat, said Mr. King made the remarks on Wednesday during a visit to Oman.

Mr. King said the reported presence of two squadrons of MiG fighter planes in Yemen "had to be regarded as a potential threat for the region."

"This is of great concern to us, but Yemen is a member of the (United Nations) Security Council and is therefore bound by council resolutions and subsequent actions aimed at achieving the early and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi troops from Kuwait," he added.

Agreements Signed for Surveys To Improve Services
NC2808201190 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Excerpt] His Excellency Hammud Bin-'Abdallah al-Hasi, minister of communications and chairman of the board of directors of the port services authority, signed three agreements today for hydrographic and topographic surveys and soil tests. The agreements will cost 120,621 Omani riyals. Work will be completed in two months.

In a statement to the Oman news agency following the signing ceremony, his excellency highlighted the importance given by his majesty's government to the development of the production and services sectors, including ports. He said that the agreements on surveys and soil tests were the first stage for determining the specifications of the civil work needed for the development and improvement of Qabus port in order to cope with the increasing maritime traffic up to the year 2000. [passage omitted]

Qatar

AFP Says PLO Officials Expelled From Nation
NC2908195490 Paris AFP in English 1934 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 29 (AFP)—Qatar has expelled 20 PLO officials since the Gulf crisis erupted, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's information chief said here Wednesday [29 August].

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, speaking at a press conference, also reported what he called "restrictive measures against Palestinians in certain Gulf countries" since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2.

Referring to the U.S. military deployment in the Gulf, Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh said the expulsions could have been set as a condition for U.S. security guarantees for regional states.

The PLO has refused to condemn the invasion of Kuwait and has close ties with Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Pessimistic on Perez de Cuellar Mission
LD2808203890 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1800 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] [Presenter Herve Claude] The helicopters from the Clemenceau can intervene directly in Saudi Arabia: This has been known since yesterday, since the talks between Prince Sa'ud and President Mitterrand at the

Elysee. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal is the minister of foreign affairs of Saudi Arabia: He is in Paris at the moment and he is with us in a live linkup from his Paris Embassy; at his side is Gerard Sebag [reporter].

Good evening, minister. The first question I would like to ask you is whether you have asked France for even greater military support than these helicopters?

[Sa'ud, in English with superimposed French translation] May I, before I answer this question, express our thanks and gratitude to France for the position it has adopted in the framework of the conflict with which we are preoccupied. And we should also like to express our admiration for the will and the firmness expressed by the National Assembly; we have been deeply touched by this attitude. I should like to say that Saudi Arabia, faced as it is with the problem which you know about, has asked fraternal and friendly countries to come to its assistance, and in particular we have asked France to give us its help, and we are very grateful to it for this.

[Sebag] Minister, with the attempts by Mr. Perez de Cuellar, is there a chance today of getting out of this situation through the path of negotiation, or is the military situation still prevailing?

[Sa'ud] Listen, we are hoping to find a negotiated [Sa'ud—in English—can actually be heard saying "peaceful" rather than "negotiated"] solution. Before the crisis, during the crisis, and up to the present time moreover we have been hoping to find such a solution and we are working towards this. There was a glimmer of hope when the visit of Mr. de Cuellar was accepted by the Iraqi authorities. But such an initiative is practically doomed to failure now that Iraq has just announced the integration of Kuwait as the 19th province of the country. That is a completely contradictory move, because on the one hand Mr. de Cuellar's visit has been accepted, and on the other Kuwait has now been integrated as the 19th province of the country, and this is highly typical of the Iraqi attitude which unfortunately is trying to play on the possibility of a negotiated solution simply to impose a *fait accompli* in the region.

[Sebag] You are thus rather pessimistic?

[Sa'ud] By nature I am not pessimistic, but it is true that the Iraqi attitude [Sa'ud can actually be heard saying "actions" rather than "attitude"] gives us every reason to be so, particularly if it persists in this position. We continue to hope: In the final analysis the international position and the position adopted during the Arab summit will, I hope, convince Iraq to try and respond to a negotiated solution, but the latter will only be possible if a return of the legitimate Kuwaiti authorities is accepted.

[Sebag] Do you truly believe in that, do you truly think that Mr. Saddam Husayn, whom you have already met earlier, is going to withdraw from Kuwait—what is your personal feeling about this?

[Sa'ud] I am afraid that we are no longer in a position to predict what the Iraqi president may do. As you know, Saudi Arabia has always been an extremely close ally of Iraq at all levels. We have worked hand in hand with Iraq and together we have met some very serious challenges. We have always supported Iraq with all the means at our disposal. Moreover, France is another great ally of Iraq, but after the action waged by Iraq in Kuwait, after this attack perpetrated by an Arab state against another sovereign Arab state and the treatment inflicted on the Kuwaiti people, I have to say that we can no longer effectively predict what the Iraqi president may do. We hope very sincerely that there will be a return to reason and an acceptance of a solution based on legality.

[Claude] A last question, minister. We know that Saudi Arabia is a rich country, Kuwait was rich, the amirates are also rich. Could all these countries not have helped the poorer Arab countries a bit more; would that not have permitted the conflict to have been avoided?

[Sa'ud] In fact Iraq is also a rich country, even though it is not as rich as the countries you have just mentioned. For our part, in Saudi Arabia we have always considered that the wealth of the Arab nation belongs to the Arab nation, and that we should all contribute to improving the well-being of the Arab citizens; the facts moreover speak for themselves, I am not going to elaborate on this point here. But unfortunately there have been cases of these resources being badly used in our region and certainly through the actions waged by Iraq. For example, the conflict waged by Iraq against Iran, where precious resources were mobilized, and more important than that, the precious blood of our young people was spilled; hundreds of thousands of people perished during that conflict. And in the final analysis we see that all those sacrifices were in vain. This is because Iran has recovered what the Iraqi people fought so hard for.

[Claude] Thank you, minister. At all events what I have registered from your remarks is that you do not believe much in negotiations. At any rate thank you for having replied to our questions.

Iraqi Incorporation of Kuwait Denounced

*LD2808193190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 28 Aug 90*

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has stated that Iraq's announcement that Kuwait has become its 19th province is a threat to the peace initiatives aimed at resolving the Gulf crisis. His highness said in a statement to reporters after his meeting in Paris today with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, quoted by REUTERS, that it was Iraq's way of undermining the peace initiatives. His highness the foreign minister added that this Iraqi move conflicted with the arrival of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to the region on Thursday.

'Prostitution, AIDS' Among U.S. Troops

*JN2908103790 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio
in Arabic 0840 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Freeman of the Arabian Peninsula, people of Mecca, al-Madinah, Riyadh, Dhahran, and Jeddah: Now, the American foreigner is on our land. He is among us. He carries his rifle and moves everywhere within our society, with all its special customs and traditions. The U.S. soldier also has his customs and traditions, which include drinking alcohol, eating pork, and practicing prostitution, which conflict with our values and constitute an aggression and a belittlement of our Islamic religion.

The American soldier has come with all the manifestations of decadence dominating U.S. society—drugs, prostitution, and AIDS, which is rampant among their men and women. You know this disease and how it spreads quickly. This means that the invasion is not only military—represented by the occupation of different parts of the country—but also an epidemic spreading all the diseases of U.S. society, including drugs, alcohol, prostitution, and AIDS. Whether we like it or not, we will be the victims of all these sins in our greater society, and among our families and children.

Our right to defend our homeland and sanctities against the foreign occupier is also a right of self-defense to protect ourselves, our homes, and children from the evils and diseases of occupation.

Agent Fahd alone bears full responsibility for what is taking place. By his action he has committed several crimes: treason against the homeland, aggression against the holy places, and participation in willfully killing men, women, and children by introducing a disease into the people's bodies and into our homeland.

Brothers, we have no choice but to take up arms to isolate and remove the foreigner from our society as a first step. The second step is to expel him from all parts of our land: Najd, Hijaz, and the Arabian Peninsula. Thus, we will have triumphed for the sake of our religion, our world, our values, and the meanings of honor in our society and our Arab and Muslim nation and will have also prevented aggression and treachery from reaching our brothers in the great Arab homeland.

King Fahd Reiterates Demand for Iraqi Withdrawal

*LD2708200390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 27 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a meeting held by the Council of Ministers this afternoon at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

In a statement to SPA after the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said: After a brief review of events

in the Arabian Gulf region, in light of political and military reports, and after the council, at noble instruction, heard a summary of the most important news reported by Arab and Western media on the events of the hour, the custodian of the two holy mosques briefed the council on all the contacts and consultations he had over the past few days with some of his brother leaders of Arab countries. They discussed the current situation and the possible consequences of the persistence of the Iraqi ruler with his intransigence and his position of rejecting all calls and intensive endeavors aimed at establishing peace and removing tension at the border region between the Kingdom and the State of Kuwait.

King Fahd said that we still aspire to peaceful solutions, which are demanded by all Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions. We have previously declared our clear and candid stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi aggression on the sisterly State of Kuwait, and we reaffirm our demand for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territories, the return of legitimate rule to the country under the leadership of its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and his government, and the withdrawal of Iraqi troop concentrations close to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's border. We see no other way for a peaceful solution, except by the fulfillment of these just and legitimate demands.

The information minister added: After that the Council discussed a number of issues concerning local affairs and looked into reports submitted by ministers concerned with public service sectors. [passage omitted]

In light of explanations provided by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general—regarding the tremendous attendance of citizens at conscription centers, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued his noble directives to designate a section for receiving those wishing to have the honor of regular military service, and another for receiving the sons of the dear homeland volunteering to undertake sacred national duty, which every conscription center advertised in advance, with a view to facilitating the procedures regarding receiving applications and out of concern to complete them quickly. [passage omitted]

'Official' Denies Tunisian Paper's Allegations

LD2608010990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2315 GMT
26 Aug 90

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Aug (SPA)—In a statement to SPA an official source said today: The Tunisian newspaper ECH-CHURUK [as received], published on Saturday morning, 25 August, reported quotations attributed to His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal regarding an alleged dialogue which took place with the custodian of the two mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, about Iraq following Iran's occupation of Majnun Island, as reported by the newspaper. This is

totally unfounded, as the Kingdom, then, had been at 'the height of its support and aid to Iraq at all levels and with all material and military means.

The source further said: While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia categorically denies what the Tunisian newspaper attributed to the custodian of the two holy mosques, it would like to warn the newspaper's officials of the consequences of fabricating lies and dissensions, which it has been doing since Iraq's invasion of sisterly Kuwait. It is truly regrettable that it is published in a sisterly Arab country, within earshot and sight of officials in it, carrying this biased campaign against the Kingdom.

The official source said in conclusion: As to the lies attributed to other parties, they will be answered by whoever is concerned with them.

Conference Sends Message of Support to King Fahd

LD2508164490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT
25 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 25 Aug (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has received a cable from Dr Ahmad al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Here is the text:

Custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, may God safeguard him: We continue to follow with growing anxiety and apprehension the escalation of tension in the Gulf region as a result of the bestial Iraqi forces intervention of Kuwait. We share with the peaceable Kuwaiti people its pains while it is going through this tyrannical test imposed on it, and we appreciate the extent of the grave dangers threatening the Gulf region and world peace, as a result of the crisis born out of this intervention.

Since the outbreak of the tragic events we hastened to express our sorrow and pain vis-a-vis this situation in which two member states of the ICO—whose peoples are linked by long ties of common rich history and whose geographic neighborliness dictates that they should co-exist peacefully and in harmony—confront each other.

The ICO charter in the course of regulating relations among member states prevents the resort to threats and the use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any country, and orders member states to always seek peaceful solutions to any disputes that might erupt, because the true Islamic religion orders Muslims to love peace, forgiveness, and fraternity.

We are certain of your strong attachment to security and concord among the peoples and societies of the Islamic nations, and between these peoples and the other peoples and nations of the world. We also know for certain that you will spare no effort to facilitate peaceful solutions to disputes among our states, unite all the peoples of the [Islamic] nation and close its ranks in the service of

Islam and the Muslims, guided in this by your sincere loyalty to the noble teachings of our religion.

We have followed with growing appreciation the sincere efforts which the Kingdom had hastened to exert under your wise leadership since the first moment in order to contain the tension between Iraq and Kuwait and to facilitate the finding of a solution to the dispute between them through negotiations.

In these difficult hours and in confronting these dark scopes, I see it as my duty to address to you, O custodian of the two holy mosques, in my own name and on behalf of the general-secretariat of the ICO, the sincerest expression of respect and appreciation for the efforts you have made and continue to make, and for the measures you have taken to preserve peace and security in the sacred territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in the region of the Gulf at large.

I am convinced that Muslims throughout the world appreciate these good efforts on your part. I also affirm to you that we at the ICO continue to support the initiatives and endeavors you are making that peace may permanently prevail in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

We pray to Almighty God to bless your efforts at the service of Islam and Muslims. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

[Signed] Dr Hamid al-Ghabid, secretary-general of the ICO

September Oil Deliveries to Japan To Increase

NC2708092790 Paris AFP in English 0900 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 27 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia will boost September deliveries of crude oil to Japan by 210,000 barrels a day to reach 460,000 barrels, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported here Monday.

The influential weekly newsletter said five Japanese customers, Nippon Oil, Idemitsu, Cosmo, Mitsubishi and Kyodo Oil, were notified of the increase by the Saudi oil company ARAMCO [Arabian-American Oil Company] last week.

Other Western buyers are also likely to receive September increases in Saudi oil supplies of around 20 to 25 per cent, according to MEES.

Key members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were meanwhile holding consultations in Vienna to consider the convocation of a formal session, which would take an official decision on boosting output in light of the Gulf crisis.

An embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports is expected to leave a shortfall on world markets of around 4.2 million barrels a day.

MEES said six of the 13 OPEC members, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar

and Ecuador, favor an increase in production, while Iraq, Iran and Libya are firmly opposed.

United Arab Emirates

King Husayn, 'Arafat Plan To Solve Gulf Crisis

JN2808112390 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Abu Dhabi have said that Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to brief UAE officials on the plan of King Husayn of Jordan to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully.

The sources added that the Jordanian plan provides for the simultaneous withdrawal of foreign troops from the Gulf and of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, and for Arab troops to replace Iraqi troops. The sources went on to say that the plan also calls for holding negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait within six months.

It was said that King Husayn drew up this plan in coordination with Yasir 'Arafat, and that he is making his current tour to brief Arab officials on this plan.

Military Delegation Holds Talks in Abu Dhabi

NC2808120290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Aug (MENA)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], today met with Staff Major General Muhammad Wahwan [name as received], assistant chief of staff of the Egyptian armed forces, and his accompanying delegation. Wahwan is currently visiting the UAE at the head of a military delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed aspects of military cooperation between Egypt and the UAE.

Yemen

Salih, 'Arafat Urge Peaceful Solution to Crisis

JN2808134790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman. During the meeting, they discussed current developments in the Arab region, the dangers of foreign moves, and the increase in military forces in the region.

The two leaders stressed the need to coordinate positions and continue efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis within the Arab framework and away from foreign interference in order to avoid a military disaster, whose grave and destructive consequences will affect every one in the region.

The meeting of the two leaders was attended by Presidential Council members brothers Salim Salih Muhammad and 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani and Advisory Council member Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi. On the Palestinian side, it was attended by PLO Central Council member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, the Palestinian leader's adviser Hani al-Hasan, and Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa Yahya Rabah.

'Arafat Departs

JN2908191890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander general of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, left Sanaa today after a short visit to our country. During the visit, he discussed with Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, the efforts to contain the Gulf crisis and resolve it within the Arab framework. [passage indistinct]

West Ready To Launch 'Aggression' Against Iraq

EA2908220690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 29 Aug 90

["Commentary on a Report"; by Ahmad Fad'aaq]

[Excerpts] The announcement about the formation of a command center in Paris for military coordination of the naval units belonging to the states of Western Europe now in the Arab Gulf region and the continuing flow of heavy weapons and American and Western soldiers to the region all confirms the determination of the Western countries to exploit the UN Security Council Resolution Number 665 to enforce implementation of the economic sanctions against Iraq. They are thus going beyond the provisions of the resolution since the indications are that these states want to launch a wicked aggression against Iraq.

These indications, which are becoming more evident daily, confirm very clearly that the foreign forces which have arrived in the Gulf area are there to stay and establish themselves in Arab territory for an indefinite period. This fact is confirmed by the statements of a number of political leaders and military commanders of the Western countries. [passage omitted]

Anyone who follows this military buildup and the massing of large numbers of troops without limit at a time when the Arab arena is witnessing the continuation of sincere Arab and international efforts and contacts between Arab leaders can, in the light of these developments, see quite clearly that the Western countries are not so much interested in a peaceful solution of the Gulf crisis as in strengthening their military presence in the region to preserve their oil and other interests by force of arms.

It is a fact that Western military preparations are moving ahead at a time when international circles are talking about the emergence of a number of peaceful initiatives, including the talks scheduled between the UN secretary

general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, to which many hopes are attached. [passage omitted]

Given these serious developments, the Arab peoples must realize the purpose behind the continuation and escalation of the American military presence in our Arab territory, and hence they must pursue a peaceful settlement of the crisis within its Arab framework free from foreign interference so as to ward off a disaster and prevent foreign troops from having a pretext for a long stay in Arab territory.

Today, responsibility weighs heavily on the Arab nation, both regimes and peoples, and it is a responsibility which is more pressing and important than at any time before. This springs from the fact that the current crisis must be regarded as one with grave hostile dimensions threatening Arab destiny and pan-Arab security.

All this requires, of necessity, a precise understanding of all the consequences of the current situation in the region and the terrible results that may arise if this crisis is not confronted with universal and responsible Arab stands.

Commentary Says Arabs Must Solve Gulf Crisis

EA2908192590 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 28 Aug 90

["Report and Commentary"; by Ahmed Fad'aaq]

[Text] The Yemeni Republic's political leadership is persevering with its sincere efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis at the Arab level. These efforts embody our country's belief that the crisis can only be solved by the Arabs themselves, without foreign intervention.

It is beyond doubt that foreign interference has done nothing but exacerbate the crisis. Therefore the Yemeni Republic, despite encountering hostile propaganda campaigns and fabrications from the Western media, insists on proceeding with its efforts to prevent the region being plunged into a catastrophe. It does so out of the conviction that tension must not be permitted to rise to the degree of military confrontation, which could have horrible results and damage security, peace, and stability.

Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has accordingly sent a number of envoys to the leaders of the Arab states and has established in telephone contacts with others in order to consult on the best ways to resolve the crisis peacefully. These peaceful moves on the part of our leadership must inevitably touch the feelings of the leaders of the Arab and Islamic states, inasmuch as they realize the importance of preserving the security and peace of the Arabian Gulf, and must stimulate them to cooperate with those moves, particularly inasmuch as the Yemeni leadership declared its principled stance immediately after the crisis arose and has since then continued its unflagging efforts on the basis of that very stance.

The Yemeni Republic only embarked upon this persistent course on the basis of its adherence to the principle of Arab nationalism and the realization that the Arabs must not allow themselves to lose control over their affairs, but must instead retain control over their destiny and resolve their own issues by themselves. Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has declared that our country does not link the stance it has adopted to accord with its relations with any country or quarter, but has adopted it out of respect for the principle of respect for justice, the upholding of rights, without being afraid to act in order to bring this about. On this basis, the Yemeni leadership will persevere with its efforts to bring about a just Arab solution to the crisis, and these efforts must coincide with the efforts of the Arab brothers.

If the Arab peoples and their leaders discharge their responsibilities on this issue, then there will be hope that the solution aspired to will be found, at the same time blocking the path to the foreign forces looking for an excuse to reinforce their military presence in the region, a presence which threatens the peoples of the area and the Arab peoples with a deterioration in the situation, outbreaks of fighting, and the unleashing of destruction both in the region and the whole world.

'Text' of 26 Aug Council Statement on Gulf

JN2608203390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 26 Aug 90

[*"Text"* of statement issued by the Council of Representatives "on developments in the Gulf region" on 26 August]

[Text] The Council of Representatives is still following with extreme concern developments in the tense situation in the Arab Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula. It has already expressed its position on this subject, which is based on its commitment to its national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian responsibility with regard to the dangers threatening security and stability in our region and in the whole world that has resulted from the escalation of tension and choosing military confrontation to settle the Gulf crisis. The dangers posed by the escalation of the crisis are increasing day after day through the massing of the fleets and armies that the United States and some NATO states have dispatched to the region, and which have deployed a huge arsenal of air, naval, and land arms on the Arab Gulf and Arabian Peninsula territory, waters, and passageways that are of vital importance to international navigation, and in the holy places that are linked to the spiritual values and interests of hundreds of millions of Muslims.

The Council of Representatives in the Republic of Yemen notes that this huge buildup of destructive weapons coincides with a remarkable escalation of psychological and propaganda warfare against Iraq and the Arab nation with the objective of pushing our region to the brink of military confrontation that, if it occurs, would inflict a devastating catastrophe that will not stop at the boundaries of the region. It is obvious that the

circles that have a tendency to add fuel to the fire have not considered the dangers of the expansion of the resulting conflagration. At a time when the peace-loving forces's concern is growing over the escalation of tension and the attempts to support the need for a military confrontation, and good offices are being employed to open all doors for a settlement of the Gulf crisis through peaceful means and to avert the dangers of a military confrontation, some hostile circles in the NATO countries are continuing to escalate tension and to hasten military confrontation with Iraq, ignoring the tragic consequences of this course, which will affect the present and future of their own countries.

The Council of Representatives believes that these hostile circles are not content with their irrational and reckless stands toward Iraq and the crisis in general, but they seek to instigate the international community against other states in the region. This becomes clear through the attempts to cast doubts on the Arab states that have refused to submit to the policy and interpretations of some international sides, and that have sought and are still seeking to increase the opportunities of settling the crisis peacefully within the Arab fold and to prevent foreign intervention that will only further complicate the crisis and lead to a devastating catastrophe against all international interests.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the Republic of Yemen has sought and is still advocating the need to tackle the serious situation through just and peaceful means within the Arab fold. Yemen's firm and principled stand has been exposed to some doubt-casting campaigns launched by some irresponsible Western sides with the objective of forcing our country to kneel to the approaches of some big powers that want to determine the destinies of the region unilaterally and to exploit the potentials of the international community to serve their own narrow goals.

The Council of Representatives is following the developments in the crisis in the Arab Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula and contributing to the positions that our country has adopted and is adopting toward this crisis, expressing its full confidence in the soundness of these positions, and stressing the need to maintain them to achieve a comprehensive solution to the crisis within the Arab fold. Moreover, the Council strongly denounces all accusations, allegations, and doubts against our country's policy by some sides that will only be satisfied with a tragedy affecting the whole world, which would be unprecedented in mankind's contemporary history. In this regard, the Council of Representatives stresses the need to continue the course that was followed by all the state's constitutional institutions and supported by the masses of the Yemeni people, including all their political forces and popular and trade unionist organizations—a policy that is not pursued only by our country, but also by several Arab and foreign states and large sectors of the Arab and world public opinions.

Council Regrets Gulf Situation, Continues Efforts
*JN2708191990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700
GMT 27 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] The Presidential Council held a meeting today at the Presidential Palace under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Council, and with brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Atias, chairman of the Council of Ministers attending.

The Presidential Council discussed domestic issues and developments in the region. The Council also reviewed the results of the visits made to our country by Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council in the fraternal Republic of the Sudan, and His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Council also noted the results of telephone consultations held by the brother chairman of the Presidential Council with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

In view of the results of these visits and consultations, the Council reviewed developments in the crisis in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula and the outcome of our country's efforts to secure a peaceful solution to it within the context of the Arab family, without foreign intervention, because this has always been our country's approach and what our country has sought to achieve since the beginning of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. Our country has always adhered to the principles of international legitimacy, the inadmissibility of settling problems by force, and respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries.

The Council expressed regret over the developments in the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula, developments that threaten the entire Arab region with security, political, and economic dangers whose outcome cannot be predicted.

The Council reaffirmed that these developments will only add to our country's determination to continue efforts for a peaceful Arab solution to this crisis in all its aspects, so as to safeguard security, stability, sovereignty, and independence of all the countries of the region.

The Council entrusted envoys to convey messages to leaders of friendly and fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Saddam Warns West in French TV Interview*AU2908122790 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT
29 Aug 90*

[Text] Paris, Aug 29 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Wednesday warned that he could arm more than six million men, in his first television interview with a Western journalist since his forces invaded Kuwait. But Patrick Poivre d'Arvor of the French television station TFI said that the interview was censored by the Iraqi Information Ministry, which notably cut some references to the foreign hostages held in Baghdad.

He said that the interview took place after he sat through Tuesday's meeting between Mr. Husayn and a group of hostages, during which he said Mr. Husayn had apparently not made up his mind to allow women and children to leave. The Iraqi announcement concerning the women and children was made late Tuesday.

In the interview extracts broadcast by TFI Wednesday, Mr. Husayn said that "there are not one million men behind me, today there are five and a half million more," according to Mr. Poivre d'Arvor.

The Iraqi president also said that he was "very disappointed" by France's stand since the August 2 invasion of Kuwait. France had previously been a major Iraqi arms supplier, but has sent naval and ground forces to the Gulf. He added that "bad governments" had joined the U.S. and British forces in the Gulf.

Concerning the hostages, Mr. Husayn said the hostages might be given a "mail box" or the services of a priest. The full interview was to be broadcast on the main evening news Wednesday. In the extract, Mr. Husayn was shown speaking in Arabic, while Mr. Poivre d'Arvor summed up his remarks in French. There was no simultaneous translation.

Further on Interview*AU3008065090 Paris AFP in English 2156 GMT
30 Aug 90*

[Text] Paris, Aug 29 (AFP)—The United States has no chance of defeating Iraq because it would have to fight on three fronts, President Saddam Husayn said in an interview in Baghdad with French television, screened here Wednesday [29 Aug]. Speaking on TFI, in his first interview with the Western media since Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait on August 2, the Iraqi president said, "We are optimistic. The future belongs to us. A victory for the United States is not realistic. To win, the United States has to win on three fronts: to defeat the Iraqi army, then crush the Iraqi economy and finally destroy the Iraqi regime," he said. "Just one victory will not be enough."

The Iraqi leader went on, "I will not beg anything from anyone. You will have realised that we are ready to die to defend our dignity. We are not worried."

Expressing his boundless confidence in the Iraqi army and people "surpassed only by my confidence in God," Mr. Husayn defended himself against the charge of wanting to dominate the Arab world.

When French President Francois Mitterrand proposes projects for Europe, "Is he aiming for European domination?" he asked, stressing that unlike Europe the Arabs were a "single nation."

The Iraqi leader said he did not understand the French position in the Gulf crisis. "France is the only country we find fault with. We do not blame the United States and Britain because they have never had a friendly attitude towards us, as everyone knows," he said.

Referring to himself throughout in the third person, Mr. Husayn said he had never promised Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that he would not attack Kuwait, as had been suggested.

Referring to his personal safety, the Iraqi leader said he did not stay in any one place so as not "to invite everyone to come and drop bombs."

INA Reports Saddam's Meeting With Families*JN2908154590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT
28 Aug 90*

[INA subslug: "Dialogue of President Saddam Husayn during his visit with the families hosted by the Iraqi people."]

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (INA)—The president said: I have been told that we have a birthday today. Happy birthday Rachel. Sometimes even unpleasant coincidences open chances for friendship and pleasant results. I appreciate, under the circumstance, as I earlier told your comrades, your feelings of annoyance at not being allowed to travel because, if I were in your place, or if my family were in your place, then I would have the same feeling. However, politicians are forced sometimes to look at things in such a manner that is beyond what can be directly seen. For example, if it were to do with my human feelings toward you as individuals, I would have immediately said that you should leave. However, when we view matters through a wider perspective involving a much greater number of people and their destiny, be they foreigners or Iraqis; if a military conflagration takes place, God forbid, between Iraq and the armies brought by the United States and its allies; if we visualize the losses that will result from such a conflagration, if it were to happen; and if we view your presence here as guests of Iraq at a certain time as something that may prevent such a conflagration, or that this presence may contribute toward preventing such a conflagration, then we would find ourselves in a such a situation in which are compelled to take decision we have taken. This means that a number of foreigners have been kept to prevent the death of many more foreigners. Of course, if war were to erupt, many Iraqis will also die, or, the way we look at it, will fall as martyrs, if the war were to take

place, because they would be defending their homeland, their own existence, and their holy places. As you know, the economic and scientific installations in Iraq operate round the clock and workers are accommodated within the same scientific and economic installations. If war erupts, these installations will be the target of this war, as clearly stated by some Western officials and by Western media. Therefore, we expect that a large number of pretty Iraqi children, just like yours, would perish if these installations were to be attacked. Among the most important things that we should take into consideration is the inhuman act that the President of the United States has committed. It is he and his administration that should be asked why they have come to this area. Initially, they said they were coming to the area to defend Saudi Arabia.

Once the weakness of this pretext had been discovered, they began saying that they came to defend oil. I think that each and every one of you know—and you have lived in the region—that the people of the region do not intend to keep the oil in their pockets; they want to sell it to the United States, Japan, and Europe. The revenues from oil would be used in development, and Western and Japanese companies in general are the ones that help carry out development projects, whether in Iraq or other places. So the oil would be sold to the West, and the revenues from oil will be used in projects in the region executed by Western companies. The claim of defending oil, therefore, is groundless.

The question should be posed to the U.S. Administration: Why do you want to embroil the world and yourselves—the American people—in a war that, by all standards and by the simplest scenarios, will not be an easy war. You know, and I think that the politicians in your country know that we do not beg the sympathy of anybody. We respect the views of people. When we go out of our way and open a dialogue with you—and you are ordinary citizens—it is not because we want to beg sympathy from your governments. We want to express our respect for the human being. God almighty taught us that there is no difference between whites and blacks, Westerners and Easterners, Arabs and non-Arabs except in the manner in which they worship God.

The most difficult thing is to punish someone for doing something he did not know was prohibited. The war, if it erupts, will be a kind of severe punishment to people. As the Iraqis and the Arabs will lose sons, women, and children, the aggressive parties will also lose men, children and women. By this I mean the attackers and their allies.

If the United States attacks installations and the installations have children, women, and civilians accommodated inside them, these persons would be killed. The weaponry owned by Iraq might not be capable of reaching the United States, but it can reach its allies. When Iraq attacks installations and factories in cities, it is expected that children, women, men, and civilians inside the installations will also die, in addition to the

soldiers who will die on the front in Iraq. This is of course in addition to the destruction in all aspects of life.

When we face such a possibility—not an easy possibility—it would not be wrong to enter into dialogue with peoples concerned about the outcome of such action, especially after we have found that doors are shut or half-shut by the concerned administrations as regards starting a dialogue and holding direct talks to find solutions which would rule out the scourge of war. When I conduct such a dialogue with you and before you—we coincidentally found at a place we visited that all those present were British—I do so, first because we respect the human being, and second, because we depend on dialogue to convey to the people the actual facts as they are and not as the deeply-involved parties wish to portray them to their people.

After the last meeting, we read the criticisms directed at us by some British politicians. They were very upset at the meeting. I do not see why they are so upset. It seems they were upset because they do not want the British people to learn facts from sources other than the British channels, which have become involved in faulty estimates. They even played a role in involving the U.S. Administration, in addition to the roles played by some of those called the allies of the United States in the region. Their estimates were extremely dangerous and mistaken. Consequently, they have pushed events to the point they have now reached.

Some Western politicians say that Iraq's measures are inhuman. I would agree with them that these measures are inhuman, had we had other options with which we could prevent the scourge of war.

I also agree that it would be inhuman if the objective is inhuman. If it is merely revenge or aimed at causing harm it is inhuman. But this is hosting under difficult circumstances—and I know it is under difficult circumstances—this is one of the factors to prevent war. Therefore, it should have another description.

For the sake of comparison even in this narrow field, in the wake of our measure, some Western states held Iraqis in order to keep them. Just because a number of their nationals were held or hosted a number of Iraqis were held. What will the situation be if what is taking place against Iraq is an attempt to invade Iraq, and not just holding a number of Iraqi citizens? What if the situation is reversed? If Iraq wanted to invade Paris, Washington, or London can we imagine the measures that would be taken by these states? They forgot all that they have been saying about democracy and freedom when they learned that some of their nationals are not allowed to travel outside Iraq; they held the Iraqi nationals who are in their states.

Despite these details, some of which might be wrong, the question should be addressed to the people who brought their fleets, air bases, and armies: Why have you come to invade Iraq? Why have you excluded the opportunity of

an Arab solution and holding a dialogue to reach a political solution that will achieve tranquility in the region away from war?

Now, I will try to answer your questions and anything related to your situation. We may think of dispatching some of you to carry a message of peace to your Western governments in which you address the direct question: Why have you come to the region as invaders although your legitimate interests are guaranteed in accordance with all criteria—present and past? Those of you who will undertake this mission will be heroes of peace contrary to those who seek heroism through reckless adventure from which they will only harvest disappointment and loss.

The lecture is heavy, particularly on the children who do not understand politics. I am ready to answer your questions, suggestions, and needs.

Responding to a question addressed to his excellency and to the U.S. President and Thatcher, the president said: Your question is addressed to the people directly involved. This is absolutely the right thing to do. Responding to the question how can you leaders use children in an issue children cannot understand, the president said: The question is legitimate and expected from a respectable lady like the one who put this question. I ask myself the same question, but in another way. My answer is: As far as I am concerned, as being in charge here, the question is: Is it acceptable to kill people without a legitimate objective? Is it acceptable to kill people except in self-defense? Even in the case of self-defense, would it not be better if there was another means other than to kill in self-defense?

All of us have seen films about wars and know that if warplanes attack cities, they will kill beautiful Iraqi children just like the children sitting in front of me, and who have mothers too. Women will also be killed. This buildup in the holy land came to strike at Iraq, to kill women, children, old men, as well as soldiers, who have neither attacked the United States nor Britain. My answer to the lady's question is that it is not acceptable to harm a human being outside the framework of self-defense. Even a case such as that is a forced situation to which we have no alternative.

So for my part, as being in authority in Iraq, I am ready for a direct, immediate dialogue with Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher. If they wish, so that the public opinion can learn the logic of the concerned parties so as to be able to pass fair judgments, let the debate between them and me be televised in front of world public opinion as a whole.

Therefore, Iraq, for its part, is not responsible for holding anybody or responsible for the intention to kill anybody, but Iraq found itself in a forced situation. Iraq believes that among the ways to prevent war is not allowing you to travel abroad until further notice.

A questioner, who is on a honeymoon with his girlfriend, said he believes that it would be better for them to be in

their country rather than here and that the best peace message for them is to be in touch with their families. The questioner said he wished to be allowed to go to France to spend his honeymoon there where he can meet with fellow Frenchmen who begin to understand the situation and can speak about it well. Responding, the president said: I agree with what the questioner, who seems to be from France, has said. I said that from the humanitarian point of view, I am hurt as much as you are. Or let me say, to be accurate, some of you may be more hurt. I say I am hurt as a human being due to the circumstances that led you to this situation. At any rate, I understand the humanitarian implications you are talking about, as being people who found themselves in a situation against their will. I am confident, or hope, that your stay here as forced guests will not be long.

Responding to a question on whether it is possible to propose an initiative which could lead to a peaceful solution and to exert earnest efforts to reach a peaceful solution, and whether such an initiative could allow children and women to leave, the president said:

In the first place, anyone is expected to make such a proposal, which has been put forward by the U.S. gentleman who posed the question. However, I wish you to know that some states did not appreciate our decision to allow some citizens to leave. In other words, some states did not consider this a gesture of goodwill that could lead to an in-depth dialogue to ward off the scourge of war from the region.

Despite this, the proposal by the speaker is expected to come from anyone or any man because men always try to keep any harm from children and women. Despite this, the circumstances are difficult and people such as the Iraqis cannot make all the humanitarian choices they would like to make if the circumstances were different. Some of you might know the Iraqis and their character and can give them descriptions different from the descriptions given them by some governments. You might not have known that some of your governments have decided to deprive Iraq of food, children's milk, and medicine. Such a measure has never been taken before in the world.

Ladies and gentlemen: Do you not know that when children are deprived of milk their health becomes weak, they will not be able to resist disease, and hundreds, if not thousands, will die? Do you know how many men, women, and children will die if they have no medicine? Do you not know that a person will die if he is deprived of food? If Iraq had not taken precautions for such a possibility, people would die, and if the land of the Euphrates is not generous with the Iraqis people will die. While you are here in our country you are aware that we have neither deprived you of food or medicines nor deprived your children of milk. If there is any shortage, please let me know directly because the instructions are clear and firm—the children of our foreign guests should have milk, medicine, and food.

Therefore, the cutting off food and medicine is overt not covert. It is not talk to a journalist; it is the current blockade. This is illegal. We asked Mr. Waldheim when he visited Iraq: Is there anything in the UN Charter that deprives people of food, medicine, and children's milk? He said that nothing in the UN Charter prevents this in any situation. However, this is the outcome of the American implementation of the idea of boycott and embargo. The British Government is cooperating with it. Regrettably, the European and Japanese administrations have not said that this is unacceptable in human terms. How do you expect the situation would be if such a blockade were imposed on you in Britain or France? Would you not be angry against whoever imposed such a blockade on you to kill you, your children, and your sick people because of the lack of medicine? Despite this, I believe that you have noticed through your contact with the people that our people do not harbor any rancor against anyone; they hate the decisions and acts, but not the people. Those who make such decisions do not have sufficient knowledge about the Arab mentality or Iraqi mentality.

The Iraqis are ready to eat the soil and to not bow their heads to the aggressive invaders. I think they want to be the object of your admiration and that of the world when they prove to the tyrants that they are people that can live without accepting humiliation and disgrace. The next months and years will prove—if the blockade lasts for years—that all estimations made on the basis that the blockade can subjugate the Iraqis are incorrect and baseless.

The president: I thank the French lady [not further identified] for her flattery. For, after all, I am only a human being who needs the simplest people to tell him what is right and what is wrong concerning his conduct, because God Almighty has taught us such principles, when He said in His holy book, the Koran: If ye are grateful, I will add more favors unto you. [Koranic verse] This address is from God to man. You, as believers, know that God does only what is right; nevertheless, He asks man, who is his own creation, to thank him. God Almighty uses dialogue to convince his slave, the human being. So, we, the slaves of God, no matter how intelligent anyone of us is, still need the help of each other to attain the image that we are supposed to attain, in human terms.

I thank the lady for this flattery and I say to her: Yes, all French politicians are our friends. We had expected them, before doing anything, to talk with us and ask us about right and wrong, so that we could answer them. Regrettably, however, they have not done so.

Proceeding from this, therefore, and depending on other evidence that we found through our links with other countries, it became clear to us that the United States has reached a degree of arrogance and brute force—here, I mean the U.S. Administration, not the U.S. citizen—to the extent that there is no longer anyone who can simply say no, when this no is addressed to the United States. It

seems that the economy and its repercussions in Europe have reached a point that is sometimes—unless the Europeans take notice of this—at the expense of their humanity. For what can the United States use to pressure the Soviet Union, France, or Italy? It can use the economy to apply this pressure. It seems that some political leaders of these countries are no longer capable of withstanding such pressure. Therefore, they have begun to appease the United States to the degree that this appeasement is a danger not only to the whole of humanity, but to Europe itself. It is obvious, therefore, that although Iraq is a friend of France—and we suppose that France can initiate a dialogue with Iraq through open doors—we do not know why some French politicians have committed such a series of mistakes to appease the dangerous U.S. policy.

If America's desire is to control the oil of the Middle East to the extent of being able to dictate to France, England, Italy, or Japan, the amount of oil, its type, and price, and a list of the amounts to reach European markets, and if America finds this to be in its interest, then is it in Europe's interest to see this happen? If this question were addressed to anyone who lives within the oil regions, he would say that it is not in Europe's interest or Japan's that America should take hold of Middle East oil, to the extent of allotting their quotas. Regardless of this debate, all Europeans and Japanese know that if war breaks out, not only might the oil fields in Iraq be set on fire, but also in other areas. They also know that if this happens, a good deal of the amount allotted to them will be cut off, because when the oil is ablaze it cannot flow to France, England, or Japan. At any rate, America will be in a better position to acquire its quota than Europe or Japan. It is certain, nevertheless, that even the United States itself will be affected.

It is not in anyone's interest, therefore, to see a war in the region. Why are they, then, pushing things toward the verge of the abyss? I think it weakness. The French need to invoke de Gaulle's spirit of the independent decision. While saying this, I do not intend to instigate Europe against the United States. We want peace; we do not want conflict. I want to say, however, through this quick human survey of what we have said, in addition to the miserable condition of humanity in Third World countries, that the United States should not dominate humanity or it will become tyrannical; because if it becomes tyrannical, it will lose its humanity and others will lose their humanity. This is because when someone becomes tyrannical, he cannot see the basic conditions for others to enjoy their humanity. It is clear, therefore, that the United States does not have to win the military battle in order to confirm the humanity of the American citizen. On the contrary, if the United States wins the military battle against us, the American will lose his humanity and many will lose their humanity as well, while we, the Arabs and the Iraqis, should not be defeated by aggression. Our humanity dictates that we should not be defeated. In fact, the humanity of the entire world dictates that Iraq and the Arabs should not

be defeated by aggression so that we can avoid disasters. Only God Almighty can be just when He dominates humanity. God, as you know, is already dominating humanity, because He is one and single.

[Unidentified person] As far as I know, not all the members of the same families are here. I would like to say to those who see this film that not all the families are here, but that all of our families are in good health.

It goes without saying that we have come to this place without anyone telling us what to say, what questions we can and cannot ask, and how to answer this or that question. The world does not know this.

[Unidentified person] We have been in contact with our embassies for the past 11 days. We were unable to contact our families, and we neither received nor sent letters to them. We hope that something will be done in this respect.

[Saddam] Things will improve in the future. We have given orders that you will always be allowed to exchange letters with your families.

[Unidentified person] I have two questions of a political nature. How do you intend to secure peace in this region and when will this be, and what are your conditions for peace?

[Saddam] We have no conditions and do not want to take anything from anybody. However, we refuse to give in to illegitimate demands from others. For example, we do not want to attack anybody, but we will confront any attack against us.

If some people want to secure the continued flow of oil, we would like to tell them that we produce oil to sell it to them. Kuwait is part of Iraq and not the 52d U.S. state.

Those who say that we want to attack Saudi Arabia are saying inaccurate and untrue things. What we want is to live in dignity in our country and let others live in dignity in their country. If the foreigners cannot understand our problems, let them leave us as Arabs to solve our problems ourselves. We are more capable of solving them, as we have no other choice.

[Unidentified person] Thank you. Another question: We are living near Baghdad: Is there a shelter in this place in case something happens?

[Saddam] You will be the first to enter the shelter. First, the children, then the women, and then men, and finally the Iraqis.

[Unidentified person] Thanks. Is it possible to arrange for visits by a Japanese physician, because we have sick people. Regrettably, we do not speak any other language. As for Japanese, nobody speaks it here. If this is possible.

[Saddam] I think we have an Army physician who knows Japanese. We will send you an Iraqi physician who

knows Japanese, address your government in this regard, or send a translator to translate into Japanese to work with an Iraqi physician.

[Unidentified person] The Japanese Embassy in Baghdad has a Japanese physician.

[Saddam] Despite this, we will secure for you a physician who speaks Japanese, or supply the physician with a translator who knows Japanese.

[Unidentified person] Thank you, sir.

[Unidentified person] My question, Mr. President, concerns the same question addressed by the one to my right regarding letters. In addition to the usual letters, we know that there are letters that can be also addressed through telephone or telex. Our embassies in Iraq can get us telex messages. Would it be possible to install a device in our places to ensure that we continue to receive such messages?

[Saddam] I asked the secretary to maintain continuous contact with your embassies through the Foreign Ministry so that the letters that reach your embassies can be received and given to you. We might consider a post office box that you can use for your mail. Thus, your correspondence would be collected daily and sent to you and from you to your relatives.

[Unidentified person] Give us a post office box in Mansur Mellia.

[Saddam] So only letters that reach you through your embassies can be received at the post office box? [sentence as received]

[Unidentified person] There is no post office box, but through the Mansur Mellia Hotel.

[Saddam] The same thing.

[Unidentified person] I have another request. You know that all those present in this session were separated from their wives last night for the sake of this meeting.

[Saddam] You will return to your wives. As for the wives, they will return to their husbands. We just wanted to see some of you.

[Unidentified woman] I would like to say that we are receiving very good treatment where we are living right now. Our needs are being met to the best possible extent, considering what is available in these places. I am saying this of my own volition. Nobody has asked me to say it. Thanks.

[Saddam] We would like to see you comfortable. By this, I am referring to relative comfort. Of course, you will be more comfortable when you are in your own country and when you are back under peaceful circumstances. We will do our best in this regard. Whenever we find a mistake, it is certainly not a deliberate mistake. Anyhow, we wish you good luck. We also hope you will go home as soon as possible and also that war will not break out.

[Unidentified woman] Mr. President, I am a Catholic. Therefore, it is necessary for me to call on a priest or that a priest be asked to visit us. We submitted a request in this regard 22 days [as received] ago. We have received no reply thus far. The person assigned to guard us is very gentle in the treatment that he accords to us, but whenever I ask him about a reply to our request, he says that he had tried to get a reply through proper channels but received none.

[Saddam] This is something to be expected. If we were in France and had to deal with a junior employee asking him to meet this sort of demand under these very circumstances, we certainly would get a reply only after a long period of time. This is one of the reasons why I wanted to meet you so that the response can be as expeditious as possible and so that we can discuss your issues and conditions. Your needs in this regard will be met, God willing.

It is a good occasion for me to see you and to know you. I will have a picture with you. I will send the picture back to you.

Envoy on Prerequisites for Foreigners' Release

LD2908155290 Rabat MAP in English 1334 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Paris, Aug. 29 (MAP)—Iraq requires non-aggression guarantees as a pre-requisite to set free all foreigners, Iraqi ambassador to France 'Abd-al-Razzak al-Hashimi Tuesday [28 Aug] said.

In an interview with the French 'TF1' television channel, al-Hashimi said 'we fear a military attack against Iraq and we are keeping foreigners to avoid a disaster. We hope that the UN Security Council and the EEC countries will say -we will guarantee that there will be no military operation against Iraq- only then could all foreigners be able to leave Iraq.' [sentence as received]

For his part, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn Tuesday said he was ready to immediately start dialog with U.S. President George Bush and British Premier Margaret Thatcher.

'Source' Views Powell Remarks on Operations Plan

JN2708203590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2006 GMT
27 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—In response to statements by General Powell, chief of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, regarding the need to resort to the Central Command operations plan, formulated in the 1980's for areas other than the Gulf, an information source said that these statements show the fear and panic of the U.S. troops in the region in view of the various difficulties facing them, foremost of which is the fact that these troops came to the region without any purpose; the second, the grumbling among these troops.

The source asked: If President Bush's Administration and the U.S. military command have this degree of fear, caution, and vigilance, then why did you bring these

fleets in, and for whose protection? They have done so only out of their concern for their own interests in the region, which are exposed to the entire world.

The effects of the immense sacrifices made at the expense of the budget of the American people will not only be felt now, but will be felt later when the members of these forces begin to suffer in their health and social affairs. Then, the U.S. Administration will know that its conduct was far removed from objectivity and was designed to involve itself in something it had nothing to do with.

U.S. Embassy Section in Baghdad Ordered Closed

JN2908163390 Amman Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Iraq today told foreign women and children that they could pick up exit visas and head home immediately following President Saddam Husayn's promise to release them. Naji al-Hadithi, Iraq's director of information, said in a telephone interview that women and children among the 11,000 foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait could stay or leave as they wish. [passage omitted]

Iraq has ordered the commercial section of the United States Embassy in Baghdad to close in retaliation for the closure of the Iraqi commercial office in Washington.

The Iraqi director of information said today that he had no details of the closure, and he did not know whether any U.S. diplomats would be expelled as a reprisal for the expulsion of 36 Iraqi Embassy staff from Washington.

'Source' Denies Report on Proposals to U.S.

JN2908184590 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1815 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—An official source has denied the news report published in New York by the newspaper TUESDAY and carried by the Zionist entity's Hebrew radio this evening to the effect that Iraq had proposed to the United States that it would withdraw from Kuwait next week and release the hostages in return for U.S. concessions, including the removal of economic sanctions, access to the Gulf waters for Iraq, and control [by Iraq] of the al-Rumaylah oilfield, as well as other proposals.

In a statement to INA, the source said that the Iraqi position has been declared and is clear in all the statements and announcements that had recently been made. The source added that such news reports are groundless, the creation of an imagination expressing the wishful thinking of the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The source added: Kuwait, whose capital is Kazimah, is an Iraqi governorate. It is part of Iraq's national and historical soil. They [not further identified] only have to read Iraq's history well to know for certain that their acts show that they are harboring delusions. The enmity that they harbor toward Iraq and the Arab nation is also shown by this, the source said.

The source stated that they have to understand that Iraq announced through its leader that Iraq's approach is that of peace, that Iraq does not seek to create any tension in the region, and that it does not covet any interests in the Arab region. As for the ideal and civilized solution, it is achievable through dialogue and through listening to opinions, and also through interaction to reach a solution to all of the region's crises. The initiative launched by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn on 12 August 1990 is the ideal framework for bringing about a comprehensive and durable peace, not only in the Arabian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula region but throughout the Middle East, the source concluded.

Mubarak Said To Foster Aggression, Not Peace

*JN2908131990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1045 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] Commenting on what was said yesterday by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY Arab affairs editor said:

The [Mubarak] press conference dealt with several points, including some points that were aimed at showing Mubarak's concern about reaching a peaceful solution to what he called the Gulf crisis. What is strange in this is that President Mubarak acts as though he had no knowledge of leader President Saddam Husayn's letters and initiatives, foremost of which is the 12 August initiative in which he stressed exclusion of the military option and a search for means to reach a just, balanced peaceful solution in harmony with the rights of the region's peoples. President Mubarak ought to have denounced the extensive U.S. invasion of the Arabian peninsula, its territories, seas, and gulfs, and not placed his country's forces under the orders of these forces to fight the Arab brothers under the cover of defense against an alleged Iraqi danger against Saudi Arabia—a danger they immediately forgot about after inventing another reason for this invasion.

Anyone searching for a peaceful solution does not turn himself into a spokesman for the foreign forces of invasion, contributing not only to the military forces, but also to the deluded psychological war launched by the imperialist and Zionist media against Iraq and the Arab nation, going far beyond this to instigate aggression and, to quote a well-known military dictum—namely, that attack is the best means of defense—in an attempt to justify and hasten the aggression on the pretext that he is pessimistic over the possibility of reaching peaceful solutions; and trying to find justifications for the aggression in the assumption that the Iraqi forces would begin aggression. By doing so, he confirmed the fact that he has instigated a military action, which he tried to absolve himself of at his press conference.

Mubarak tried to close all doors to political solutions. This means one thing, namely, that he is instigating aggression against Iraq, and that he considers military action the only possible option. Every time he was asked about a peaceful solution, he expressed pessimism and

cast doubts on the possibility of the existence of this solution. Thus, Mubarak is an instigator of an aggression and a partner to it.

It is also strange that he claimed that the use of insults is an uncivilized practice, and forgot that this style is the profession of the Camp David writers in Egypt, and that the unity of the logic of insults of the Camp David writers proves that Mubarak himself is behind this style. This is the style of the Camp David writers and press following the U.S. invasion of the region. If he wants us to remind him, then he should go back to his press and news media—or is it that he does not read his press or listen to his news media?

In his news conference, President Mubarak alluded to President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative issued on 12 August stipulating comprehensive withdrawals. However, Mubarak tried to cover it up and ignore its details, which embarrass him because they are connected with the Zionist forces' withdrawal from occupied Palestine and the territories of two Arab states, Syria and Lebanon. We are aware of the great interest this serious and practical initiative created among political and media circles all over the world, with the exception of Mubarak's world, which is fettered by Camp David chains and its heavy commitments that are affecting Egypt, its honor and Arabism.

This leads us to Mubarak's allusion to realistic hopes and historical rights. Apparently he is aware that Iraq has historical rights to its southern region. However, Mubarak did not elaborate on this point, because it calls to mind the Palestinian people's rights all over Palestine. This pleases neither his Zionist neighbors nor his American friends.

It seems that the Baghdad 1978 Arab summit continues to be the difficult point in Egyptian policy, which is directed and managed by the custodians of the Camp David agreements. This summit halted the Arabs' collapse and prevented the Camp David chains from being clamped around the necks of the Arabs. The Baghdad summit resolutions voiced eagerness to preserve Egypt and its Arabism and future, and role. These resolutions were not aimed at (isolating) Egypt as the Americans, the Zionists, and the Camp David custodians wanted.

Therefore, President Saddam Husayn's and Iraq's eagerness to include Egypt in the Arab Cooperation Council was prompted by their desire to free it from Camp David and restore it to its natural position among the nation's ranks. This was what Mubarak meant in his news conference when he said: They wanted to contain Egypt.

Here a great difference appears between (firmness) and desires; between the one who wanted Egypt as it really is—namely, Arab; and the one who wanted to spread Camp David among all the Arabs.

Mubarak's remarks at the news conference revealed that the greatest of his fears is recalling the immortal Arab leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, even if this is by way of

comparison and resemblance. This is because 'Abd-al-Nasir is the hero of nationalization, of confronting the tripartite aggression, and of defeating the British, French, and Zionist invaders, to whom can be added the inheritors and custodians of Camp David.

'Abd-al-Nasir is the man who defended Yemen against attempts to besiege and invade the country by the Saudis and their U.S. masters. He is the man who shouldered with honor and courage all the results of the June 1967 war. He is the hero of the war of attrition and the preparation to liberate Sinai. He has earned his great name.

It is surprising that Mubarak should seek the judgment of public opinion. Yes, public opinion is aware of and realizes who is telling the truth, as Mubarak says. Apparently, Mubarak is absent, unaware of what is going on between the [Atlantic] Ocean and the [Arabian] Gulf. Arab public opinion is being expressed daily by demonstrations, protests, volunteers, and the names of the new-born babies, whose parents could not find a more honorable name than that of Saddam to call them. There are noble pens that do not buy their ink with petrodollars but are writing with blood about Iraq and its leader, Saddam Husayn, and which are defending Iraq's position and rising in anger against the ugly American's crime of invading the holy land, Najd and Hejaz, the land of the holy kaaba and the tomb of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him.

Ramadan Meets With Japanese Ambassador 29 Aug
JN2908181790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, today received Kunio Katakura, Japanese ambassador in Baghdad.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral ties, their future, the situation in the Arabian Gulf region, and its developments.

Japanese 'Hosted' by Nation Urge U.S. Withdrawal
JN2908173190 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 29, INA—The Japanese citizens hosted by Iraq called for pulling out the U.S. and foreign troops from the Arab Gulf region and nonintervention in the region's internal [word indistinct].

In statements to INA, they confirmed that presence of these troops in the region poses a threat to the security and stability of the world and causes wars and scourges.

The Japanese guests clarified that peace is the goal and aspiration of all peoples and expressed happiness over their meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Takida [not further identified] said that President Husayn is a modest and generous man despite his international status.

He added that despite his duties, President Husayn had listened to us and replied to our questions promising us to facilitate travel if circumstances improve.

Mr. Takida urged his country's government to cooperate with Iraq for engineering peace in the region and averting it from the ghost of war.

The Japanese families hosted by Iraqi people expressed satisfaction and gratitude over the kind attention offered by the Iraqi leadership and people.

The families expressed happiness to join the Iraqis in warding off danger of war and avert the region and the world its scourges. [sentence as received]

Japan Reports Procedures for Detainees' Release
OW3008051890 Tokyo KYODO in English
0340 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 30 KYODO—Indications grew Thursday that Japanese women and children detained by Iraq in a Baghdad hotel might be freed later in the day. Japanese Embassy officials in Baghdad put the chance of their being freed Thursday at 30 percent.

In Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry said the Iraqi Foreign Ministry had informed it that Baghdad planned to begin diplomatic procedures to release the women and children on Thursday. Nearly 200 Japanese nationals who were transferred from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait to the Iraqi capital last week have been under detention at the Al-Mansour Melia Hotel. Iraqi authorities took some 20 other Japanese from the hotel to unknown destinations.

Of the Japanese detainees at the hotel, 40 are women and 28 are younger than 20, including four one-year-old children, according to Japanese Embassy officials. President Saddam Husayn's decree freeing Western women and children held hostage also applies to Japanese, Vice Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan told Japanese ambassador to Baghdad Kunio Katakura on Wednesday. The Japanese Embassy has reserved rooms at another hotel in Baghdad to accommodate the Japanese women and children when they are released, the officials said.

Meanwhile, the two Japanese diplomats who remained in the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait in defiance of Iraq's order to close the mission told reporters in Baghdad on Wednesday night that they had temporarily evacuated the embassy because of worsening "physical conditions." Akio Shiota, interim charge d'affaires, and Koji Naito, a second secretary, stayed in the embassy in Kuwait City to avoid giving legitimacy to Iraq's annexation of Kuwait but left Wednesday evening.

They said they had made clear to Iraq Japan's strong will not to shut its mission in Kuwait. Shiota said the embassy building was like a sauna after Iraqi authorities

cut water, electricity and telephone communications on Saturday. They lived on stored mineral water and crackers, Naito added.

Oil Minister Talks With Turkish State Minister

*JN2908201390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1610 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side of the joint Iraqi-Turkish committee, met in the Habur area on the Iraqi-Turkish border this afternoon Isin Celebi, Turkish minister of state for economic affairs and head of the Turkish side to the committee.

During the meeting, they discussed issues of common concern to serve the common interests of the two countries.

Minister on OPEC Meeting, Production Increase

*JN2908203890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT
29 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—Answering a question by the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY about the reports on the results of consultations held by a number of OPEC oil ministers in Vienna, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim said:

Last week, the Saudi regime attempted to call for an emergency meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Council to discuss the situation in the oil markets resulting from the stoppage of the flow of Iraqi oil to the markets and the effect of this on the balance between demand and supply. The proposal failed to obtain a slight majority; that is, the approval of seven countries, in accordance with OPEC law.

The Iraqi oil minister added: As a result of the continuous pressure practiced in particular by the Saudi regime and Venezuela, Sadek Boussena, OPEC chairman and Algerian minister of mines and industry, agreed to hold a series of consultations with a number of OPEC oil ministers who wished to hold consultations at OPEC headquarters.

The minister noted that on this basis a number of ministers were present in Vienna between 26 and 29 August 1990. Despite the continued attempts by the Saudi regime to renew the call for an extraordinary meeting of the OPEC Ministerial Council, however, this request was rejected because there was no justification for it. On the evening of 28 August 1990, they promptly called on the Ministerial Monitoring Committee to hold a meeting on the morning of 29 August 1990, to issue a statement calling for temporary measures to increase production within a period that does not exceed the period of the current circumstances in the Arabian Gulf. The statement underlines adherence to resolutions adopted by OPEC in July 1990, to the principles contained in these resolutions, and to the defined production quotas. The statement holds the consumer industrial countries—represented by the International Energy Agency—responsible for using their large reserves to cover the shortage in oil supplies.

The oil minister said: As that statement does not represent the minimum that the Saudi regime sought to peddle, however, Iraq expressed its reservation on this measure because the stoppage of the flow of Iraqi oil is a result of the unjust resolutions adopted by the Security Council under American pressure. These resolutions resulted in the stoppage of Iraqi oil exports. This is in addition to the fact that Saudi Arabia, which is an OPEC member state, cut off oil supplies to world markets through the Iraqi crude oil pipeline to the Red Sea. Consequently, it is not allowed to increase its [Saudi] production or the production of any other country.

The oil minister said that what was issued by these meetings cannot be considered an amendment of the OPEC resolution adopted by the Ministerial Council on 27 July 1990 with the consensus of the member states. The Ministerial Monitoring Committee was not authorized—regardless of the number of those who attended—to make any amendment on the production and prices resolutions contrary to what happened in September 1989. The issue of amending the quotas was confined to a meeting to be held by the OPEC Ministerial Council on 12 December 1990. Consequently, Iraq considers any increase in the production of any member state an illegitimate violation.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi minister expressed Iraq's appreciation for the honorable positions taken by a number of OPEC members by refusing to submit to the imposed pressures. He said that these positions about the attempt of anyone who tries to undermine OPEC, the unity of which must be maintained as an organization that has specific objectives to safeguard the rights of its members and implement their commitments.

Report on Presidential Palace Soldiers Denied

*JN2908211990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT
29 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—A source at the Culture and Information Minister has denied a report published by the Lebanese newspaper AL-SHARQ and broadcast by the Zionist entity's radio that Iraq has moved 50,000 soldiers and deployed them around the Presidential Palace. In a statement to INA, the source said that the Presidential Palace does not need military protection because it is protected by the shield of the noble Iraqi people who love their leader Saddam Husayn who made sacrifices for their sake.

The source noted that such reports propagated by the Zionist trumpets and their agents cannot harm or affect Iraq's people and Army. Their trumpets will be overpowered by the voice of justice, the voice of Iraq's people, Army, and leader, the beloved Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Let the lowly be accursed.

Rationing To Be Implemented in Baghdad 2 Sep
LD2908174790 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1643 GMT 29 Aug 90

["Pool" item]

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 29 (TAP)—The Iraqi authorities have decided to ration basic foodstuffs to the 18 million Iraqis as of Sunday [2 September]. The rationing applies to rice, flour, sugar, tea and oil, informed sources in Baghdad said.

Hundreds of committees set up in various regions in Iraq have started distributing ration cards to families, to be used in the coming months to obtain food at subsidized prices.

Iraq has been subjected to an international trade embargo since its invasion of Kuwait.

Further Exchange of POW's 29 Aug
JN2908183990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—A new batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returned by air to the homeland at

noon today. The Iraqi POW's were accorded an official and popular reception in which mass and popular organizations as well as a large crowd of citizens participated. [Baghdad INA in Arabic at 1730 GMT adds: A new batch of Iranian POW's, whose release was ordered in accordance with the letter sent by his Excellency President Saddam Hsuayn to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 15 August left by air at noon today.]

Iraqi Airways Begins Two Amman-Baghdad Flights
JN3008075490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—Iraqi Airways sources said it has been decided, as of the day before yesterday [28 August], to operate two flights daily to Baghdad: The first will leave Queen Alia International Airport at 1000 and the second at 1600.

The sources said the two flights will arrive from Baghdad approximately one hour before their scheduled departure from Queen Alia airport.

Delegation Presents 'List of Requests' in U.S.

TA2908211490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
 2100 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, has held secret talks in Washington with Pentagon and State Department officials on Israel's procurement requests in view of the Middle East crisis. Our Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that 'Ivri headed a Defense Ministry delegation that came armed with a list of requests for equipment, weapons, and intelligence cooperation.

Shamir Sends Message to Husayn To Allay Fears

TA3008103490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
 30 Aug 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently transmitted another message to King Husayn in order to allay the monarch's fears that Israel plans to attack Jordan. The missive was transmitted via Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

That is the essence of a report that has reached Jerusalem from the Israeli Embassy in Cairo following Mubarak's meeting with a U.S. congressional delegation.

At the meeting, which was held in Alexandria this week, President Mubarak told Senator Robert Dole, the head of the U.S. delegation, that Egypt is maintaining an open line with Israel during the crisis. Mubarak also said that "only recently I received assurances from Shamir that Israel has no intention of attacking Jordan, and at Shamir's request I reported that immediately to Husayn."

The Egyptian president was especially full of praise for the working relationship formed with Foreign Minister David Levi. "You must know," he stressed, "that the difference between Israel and other countries in the region is that the Israelis keep their word and I respect them very much for that."

In Jerusalem there is satisfaction with the positions recently adopted by the media in Egypt toward Israel. [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on Shamir Unity Government Remarks

TA2908122690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
 in English 29 Aug 90

[Report by political reporter Michal Yudelman]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was "not being serious" when he discussed the possibility of a national unity government, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has charged. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 August in a page 3 report by Tzvi Zarhiyah and Ilan Shehori adds that

"Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told HA'ARETZ that today Shamir cannot invite the Labor Party to join a national unity government, since he fears paying the price the Labor Party could demand in return for its consideration of such an invitation."

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said that Shamir was referring to an emergency situation which does not exist at present. The statement, they added, is "a typical Shamir answer" and does not mean that any move is being made towards a national unity government. [passage omitted]

Arens To Discuss Cooperation, Submarines in Bonn

TA3008055290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
 0500 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens will visit Bonn next week, where he will meet with his West German counterpart. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the two ministers will discuss common interest issues and exchange views on matters pertaining to cooperation between the two countries. Their agenda will include the submarine project. Minister Arens is expected to decide within a few days whether the project is to be implemented or temporarily deferred.

Intelligence Chief Comments on Iraqi Capabilities

TA2908192590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
 1800 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] A senior Air Force commander has commented on reports that Iraq has deployed Scud missiles in Kuwait and that it is capable of manufacturing nuclear bombs in two weeks. He said this is psychological warfare. The head of Air Force Intelligence told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that if anyone in Israel had thought for a moment that the Iraqi chemical threat was more real than meets the eye, a decision to distribute gas masks to the citizens would have been made and additional preemptive measures would have been decided upon. He claimed that the chemical threat has been overblown, because in the final analysis the damage it can cause is relatively small and defense against it is very easy. The head of Air Force Intelligence says that Saddam Husayn obviously craves nuclear capability and is striving to realize it at all costs.

Commentary Criticizes UN, U.S. Moves in Gulf

TA2708114890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
 27 Aug 90 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "No Mediation, No Negotiation"]

[Text] As diplomacy approaches the final moments just before fighting in the Persian Gulf breaks out, everything seems to recall the waiting period that preceded the Six-Day War. The vultures appear to be circling the carcass: Then it was UN Secretary General U Thant's trip to Cairo, and now his successor Perez de Cuellar is

being summoned to Baghdad; then it was Charles de Gaulle, now it is Kurt Waldheim; then it was Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, who heartily welcomed the military confrontation with an Israel trying to protect itself, and now it is Saddam Husayn, exulting in the threat of stacking piles of dead American bodies.

This is a perilous moment for world peace. When third-rate politicians get involved in events in the region, international diplomacy interferes with the political radar. Waldheim's pilgrimage to Baghdad can be seen as birds of a feather flocking together; Perez de Cuellar has no business going there when Saddam is nervous; and the Egyptians, Turks, and Saudis need a swift and clear decision before their regimes crumble under them. But what will the UN secretary general and his predecessor, the current Austrian president, do in Iraq? Will they, like de Gaulle, show their ugly face by saying that the culprit is not the invader but the one who fires the first shot?

This is a classic attempt by Saddam Husayn to gain time with diplomats who have nothing to buy and nothing to sell, but who can torpedo the world's political diplomacy, meanwhile dragging it into a long drawn out discussion of the tiny handful of issues they are capable of dealing with, such as the fate of Western hostages. This is good for Iraq and the sentimental media, but bad for everyone else.

Even if the UN secretary general ventures into the mine field of the real essence of the problem, he will achieve nothing. The danger is that, on the brink of war, he will offer Saddam Husayn the ladder with which to climb down from the high tree of Kuwaiti oil and still preserve his prestige. The United Nations will give him some worthless document which he will wave as he withdraws from Kuwait as if it were an impressive accomplishment, while the venerable Iraqi nation—which never sought redress from him for its 1 million victims or the \$102 billion spent on the war against Iran—will swallow that too. After all, that nation kept still when he erased the gains from the war with Iran with a wave of his hand.

Bush will presumably be tempted to accept such a solution. Saddam Husayn will require several years to lick the wounds of his hurt pride and pull out from Kuwait, but the U.S. President will be able to tell his people that his original demands were fully met, there is peace in our time, and he is bringing all the boys back home safe and sound. After all, the lethargic U.S. deployment in the Gulf is not totally divorced from the memory of the miserable mission imposed by Jimmy Carter on the Marines in the sands of Iran. No politician will spurn such a promising cheap and golden solution which guarantees that the scope of his mistake will never be discovered during his term as president.

This will not solve the problem called Saddam Husayn. On the contrary, if Bush is satisfied by merely having his basic demands met, the world will be far worse off than before the crisis. With the advent of the incursion into Kuwait, the nations of the world got involved with a

dangerous despot; with the advent of an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait, under the dubious aegis of Perez de Cuellar, they will have to deal with a wounded and far more dangerous vengeful lunatic. Dangerous first of all for the U.S. allies in Riyadh and Cairo, but also for those in Damascus and Ankara; and, in the foreseeable future, also in Jerusalem.

Washington must make it plain that the issue of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the fate of the Western hostages are no longer a subject for discussion. Bush sounded quite determined, using absolute terms, a few days ago. No Western leader has come out with such firm statements since the Allies' meeting after "Operation Torch" in North Africa in late 1942, when they informed Adolf Hitler that there would be no negotiations but unconditional surrender. In a statement reminiscent of the one his predecessors delivered to the Nazi leadership, Bush hinted that those who are captured after the fighting subsides will be tried for war crimes. That is the way to talk to the entire Iraqi top brass right now; not only to Saddam Husayn—also known as "the Hitler of Baghdad"—but to all the Goerings and the Himmlers of Baghdad as well. The same fate will befall them if anything, but anything, happens to the hostages, if the blood of a single British boy is spilled, or if one American girl held captive in the Iraqi capital goes hungry. There may be some historic innuendo behind the fact that the U.S. President chose to repeat the same old terms, as once again the United States and the Soviet Union are on the same side.

From Bush's standpoint there is only one issue, and it can be found out in 24 hours: If Saddam Husayn pulls out of Kuwait and resigns immediately without any blood being shed, the world may grant him diplomatic immunity to end his life somewhere in some Middle Eastern devil's island, far away from the Shatt al-'Arab; but if he fights, he will most certainly be charged with war crimes.

Ban on Travel of Arab Notables Condemned

TA2908125890 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 29 Aug 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Severe Discrimination"]

[Text] Recently, the security forces in the West Bank have begun preventing Palestinian leaders in the territories from leaving for abroad. Two heads of women's associations, Ruda al-Basir, and Zahira Kamal, who were scheduled to participate in the Non-Governmental Conference affiliated with the United Nations in Geneva, were just recently denied permission to leave; and this is not confined just to them, others were also denied the right to leave.

Yesterday, this deplorable custom was adopted in Israel, and exercised upon Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, an Israeli Arab doctor. The ban was issued by the interior minister and constitutes a very discriminatory step for some of Israel's citizens.

The government generally implements its totalitarian punitive measures at the worst possible times. The world press is seething with anger about the seizure of hostages in Kuwait and Iraq, and the withholding of the right to leave from the citizens of various countries. The Israeli Government is apparently seeking to demonstrate that it has adopted the deplorable practice of hostage-taking.

This practice is wrong because it seriously infringes upon civil rights and the freedom of movement and is an unacceptable discrimination against the residents of Judeaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—as well as against the Arab citizens of Israel. Our actions should be firmly anchored in democratic principles, and these orders should be revoked at once. Arab political activists should not be stopped from traveling because of political reasons while blatantly manifesting national discrimination.

Hamas Calls on Iraq To Withdraw From Kuwait

TA3008105690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 30 Aug 90 p 10

[Report by Jon Immanuel, Matthew Seriphs, and ITIM]

[Text] In the first official denunciation of Iraq by Palestinian Islamic fundamentalists, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] distributed a leaflet yesterday calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, demanded Kuwaiti self-determination, and expressed sympathy for the Kuwaiti people under occupation.

However, the mainstream pro-PLO Unified National Leadership of the Uprising issued a leaflet yesterday which continued to demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from Saudi Arabia without demanding any Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. It called for a strike on September 26 "in solidarity with the Iraqi people."

Both the Hamas and the Unified Leadership leaflets urged Saddam Husayn not to make any moves which could provoke a U.S. attack against Iraq and inveighed against the U.S. "crusaders."

A strike called by the Unified Leadership is set to take place today in the territories in protest against U.S. involvement in the Middle East.

Shops were allowed to open all day yesterday in preparation for the strike and to allow parents to buy children school uniforms for the start of the school year on September 1.

There seems to be a widening rift in the territories between supporters and opponents of Saddam Husayn. Hamas, which is supported by an estimated 30 per cent of the population in the territories, appears to be staking out a firm line against the secular Iraqi dictator's pretensions to the leadership of the Islamic and Arab world. The PLO, which claims to be mediating between Iraq and the rest of the Arab world, is opting for appeasement of Saddam.

In Leaflet No. 63, Hamas writes: "We here in Palestine are aware of what it means to lose a homeland and we understand the agony of the Kuwaiti Moslem people. We appeal to Islamic nations to assist the Kuwaiti people.... The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) supports a solution based on the withdrawal of foreign troops from the region and the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, to be replaced by Arab or Islamic soldiers on the disputed borders.... The Kuwaiti people have the right to decide their own future."

The previous leaflet, issued three weeks ago, called upon the Iraqis and Kuwaitis to unite and turn against Israel.

In Hebron yesterday, two firebombs were thrown at a military patrol near Bet Romano, but caused no damage, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said.

Local sources reported that on three streets around King Faysal Street youths set fire to a highly flammable glue. A soldier who spotted an Arab journalist at the site struck him and tried to take his camera, the report said. The IDF said a firebomb was thrown in the area, but caused no damage.

In Bethlehem it was reported that soldiers and tax men raided shops on the Jerusalem-Hebron road and arrested a butcher, Ahmar al-Ahmar. At a roadblock manned by soldiers and taxmen, a Mercedes car and NIS [new Israeli shekel] 3,600 were confiscated from Isma'il Khadr, local sources said. The IDF had no report on the incidents.

ITIM adds: The Civil Administration has barred Ghassan al-Khatib, a lecturer at Ae-Najah University in Nablus, from traveling to Geneva to attend a meeting of non-governmental organizations. About 10 Palestinians have been prevented from traveling abroad in the past two weeks.

Clashes, Demonstrations Reported in Territories

TA2908135990

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 August in a report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs on page 10 states: "Four people were reported wounded in Tulkarm refugee camp Monday night [27 Aug] and yesterday morning in clashes with soldiers, Arab sources said, and an inmate of the Qezi'ot detention camp died yesterday.

"The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said that two people were slightly wounded during the two clashes.

"The IDF informed the Mabruk and Karkash families in the Nablus casbah yesterday that their houses would be sealed because of offenses committed by their sons, Samsam Mabruk, 22, and Majid Karkash, 22, who were arrested in February, local sources said.

"Palestinians said 400 persons have been arrested since last Friday [24 Aug] in the Gaza Strip, following the

killing of an alleged collaborator. The town of Rafah remains under curfew for the fourth straight day.

"Four Palestinians were reported shot in al-Burayj refugee camp during clashes with the IDF."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 29 August in a report by Yizhar Be'er and Eytan Rabin on page A5 states that "two small explosive charges went off yesterday near the village of Bayt Sahur as an Israeli bus was going by. The blast shattered the bus windows, but there were no casualties.

"Demonstrations in support of Saddam Husayn took place at several locations in the West Bank yesterday. Villagers in Habla, south of Qalqilyah, called Egyptian President Mubarak a coward and a collaborator with the United States.

"Palestinian sources asserted that reports of a drop in the level of violence in the territories are not true and that there are daily clashes between residents and IDF troops.

"The HA'ARETZ correspondent reports that the large demonstrations in support of Saddam Husayn have died out and only take place in the southern refugee camps."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew in a similar report by Yizhar Be'er on page A5 adds: "Several days ago Defense Minister Moshe Arens rejected an appeal by Knesset Member Hashim Mahamid to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from prison. Yasin was imprisoned for actions hostile to the state. Mahamid's request takes into consideration Yasin's poor health."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 29 August in a report by Hanan Shlayin on page A2 states: "Yesterday Hamas leaflet 63 was disseminated in the territories. This leaflet is more moderate regarding the resolution of the Gulf crisis. It proposes that all foreign forces leave the region and that the Iraqi troops then withdraw from Kuwait, with their place being filled by Muslim forces. The Kuwaiti people will then be given the right to choose their own future."

All Gaza Prisoners Under 16 To Be Released

TA2808110190

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 August, in a report by Matthew Seriphs and Jon Immanuel on page 10, says that "Gaza Strip lawyers were summoned yesterday to a meeting with Civil Administration head Arye Shiffman-Ramot, who told them that all prisoners under the age of 16 would be released from detention centers in the Strip, Palestinian sources said.

"They added that Gaza Strip military commander Shmu'el Zucker met with notables in Rafah yesterday afternoon to discuss the situation arising from a continuing curfew imposed after crowds broke into a house

in the town's Shabura refugee camp and a well-known 'collaborator' was shot dead with a pistol.

"As the curfew on all parts of Rafah, except the Brazil and Tall al-Sultan neighborhoods, continued for the third day, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] rounded up 300 people, detaining 27 of them.

"Two petrol bombs were thrown at IDF patrols in Gaza but no one was injured.

"Two demonstrations were reportedly held in Nabulus yesterday in support of Iraq. The first, by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, with 50 marchers, was followed by another rally with 300 people marching in support of Yasir 'Arafat and Saddam Husayn, local sources said.

"The IDF said it had no reports of any marches or incidents in Nabulus yesterday."

Larry Derfner contributes to the same item, adding: "In Kefar Sava, nine masked Arabs, armed with axes and knives, accosted two municipal garbage workers yesterday morning and set fire to their truck, police said." They fled in the direction of nearby Qalqilyah, "a few hundred meters across the Green Line."

In another report on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Matthew Seriphs reports that "the Gaza military court sentenced Khalid 'Afifi, 27, from Gaza, to two life sentences and 30 years for the murder of two persons he suspected of cooperating with the authorities and for leadership of a local Fatah strike committee." 'Afifi "was also convicted yesterday of kidnapping" two Palestinians, and "Palestinians" said that "since 1989 'Afifi's strike committee had carried out numerous attacks on residents suspected of informing for Israel.

"The jailed man was said to have been caught seven months ago while attempting to escape to Egypt."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 August, in a report on page A5 by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er, adds that "two Molotov cocktails were hurled yesterday at IDF patrols in Gaza. Military sources reported that they exploded but caused no damage. Palestinian sources reported that in clashes with the IDF yesterday in Gaza, Rafah, Khan Yunus, and Jabalyah, five locals were injured. The sources also reported gatherings of local residents on Gaza's main street and on stoning incidents involving military vehicles."

Another report on the same page of the same issue of HA'ARETZ by reporter in the north Menahem Horowitz adds that "a Janin resident was caught two nights ago near Kibbutz 'En Gev with a number of firebombs and bottles filled with pebbles. When questioned, he said that he was standing on the Ha'on-'En Gev road throwing these bottles at passing vehicles." He added that "for three months several Janin residents have been trying to persuade him to launch attacks in Israel" by threatening his family.

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 28 August reports that "23-year-old Yasir Qut was murdered in the Ramallah region, and his body was discovered last night in a wadi near Baytuniya." His killers left a note attributing responsibility for the murder to the Black Sunday commandos who wished to commemorate the Arab laborers killed in Rishon Leziyyon in May. Qut is "the seventh Arab murdered in the territories in the past 10 days."

The report adds that "the security forces sealed a house in Ramallah last night occupied by a young Fatah operative who hurled firebombs at the municipality building and at an army vehicle." Also, "the police conducted a special operation in Hebron last night to collect debts owed by the locals to the execution office. The operation was carried out following the call of the Unified National Command of the Uprising to all residents to avoid paying taxes. Over 80,000 shekels were collected, and 40 debtors were arrested."

Lebanese Gets 30 Years for Attacking Soldiers

TA2408114590 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 24 Aug 90 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Lod Military Court yesterday sentenced a Lebanese who participated in an attack on Israeli troops in southern Lebanon to 30 years in prison.

Mahmud Habinjar, 19, was drafted by the youth movement of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in 1983 and was given military training. On January 25, he fired three RPGs at troops patrolling near al-Tayyibah in the security zone, while two other members of his gang fired LAW missiles.

In the clash with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the two others were killed. Habinjar was captured the following day.

Habinjar's attorney asked the court to take into consideration that no soldiers were killed in the incident, and that Habinjar's parents were killed in an explosion in a refugee camp during the Lebanon War.

Yeshiva Students 'Settled' in East Jerusalem

TA2608103090 *Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew*
26 Aug 90 p 8

[Report by Shuqi Levanon]

[Excerpt] Some 20 yeshiva students, including members of the group from the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva who some three months ago settled in the Christian Quarter in East Jerusalem, last Thursday settled in a reconditioned Arab house located between Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives, near the Mormon college, in the heart of the Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

First Western Women Reportedly Arrive From Iraq

*LD3008082190 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish
0800 GMT 30 Aug 90*

[Text] This just in: A pregnant Spanish woman, whose identity has not been revealed, and a young British woman arrived this morning in Amman from Baghdad.

They are the first women to leave Iraq following President Saddam Husayn's announcement the day before yesterday that he would authorize the departure of all women and children held so far as hostages.

'Source' Discloses Imposition of Embargo

*NC2908135390 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT
29 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] Amman, Aug 29 (AFP)—Jordan has told Iraq it will apply a trade embargo against it approved by the United Nations Security Council to protest the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, an authoritative source disclosed here Wednesday.

The government informed Baghdad it was halting "all exports toward Iraq as well as all commercial and financial operations," he added. But Jordan is still awaiting clarification from the United Nations to know if the restrictions, approved August 6, apply to food and medicine, the source said.

Resolution 661 prohibits the "sale or supply...of any commodities or products" to Iraq, "not including supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, and, in humanitarian circumstances, foodstuffs..."

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is expected to discuss the scope of the resolution when he meets here Thursday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince on Gulf Crisis, Diplomatic Efforts

*JN2908091590 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 28 Aug 90*

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by British ITN television, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Sir, Iraq is expelling American diplomats, Iraqis are also holding Moroccan diplomats hostage, President Saddam is making threatening noises against America's allies. In these circumstances, the sort of diplomatic efforts made by King Husayn, do they stand any chance of success?

[Hasan] The diplomatic efforts are being made by the United Nations and by the secretary general who will be arriving here at the end of the week. What King Husayn is trying to do is to see whether in the Arab world there is still a possibility of implementing Article Four of Resolution 660, which calls for an Arab contribution to the basic component part of that conflict, which, after

all, is the Iraqi occupation and annexation of Kuwait, which is totally unacceptable.

So we are trying at five minutes before midnight, once again, to cope with the fallout of and other Middle East crises, and this seems to be the lot of Jordan ever since it was created.

[Reporter] The declaration by Iraq that Kuwait is now a province of that country—that is a very new and threatening stumbling block to the whole thing, surely.

[Hasan] Well, indeed it is, but I think that on both sides, the public pronouncements and the measures taken are not intended to win friends and influence people; I mean, we see these messages whizzing over our heads; we hope they won't turn into missiles. And I think that we, of course, can look at the trees, but let us try and take a step back and say, is there a possibility of containment? And I hope that Jordan can play host to may be one small step in that direction when the secretary general visits us on Thursday.

[Reporter] King Husayn and President Saddam have talked about an Arab solution to this thing. Does that mean that Arabs would accept something less than Iraq's total removal from Kuwait?

[Hasan] My belief is that all Arabs clearly are concerned with the implementation of United Nations resolutions; particularly, the subject of annexation is totally unacceptable for us, as we look at the annexation of Jerusalem. Article 24 of the Charter applies there as it does in Kuwait. But the point is that the unconditional withdrawal called for by the United States obviously has to have some form of a commitment from the other side. And I think that we all have to look for ways and means of seeing that this doesn't happen again, given that every single Gulf state has a territorial dispute with its neighbor. We hope that all our friends in the Arab world, and we still have many friends we believe in the Gulf region, will understand our bid for peace.

[Reporter] So are you saying that the removal of Iraq from Kuwait—that is absolutely what must happen. There is no suggestion at all that can be negotiated in any form, refined in any form?

[Hasan] We have all come out very clearly against annexation. It is totally unacceptable.

[Reporter] What about the position of Jordan with commerce with Iraq? Have you now sealed off all that trade completely?

[Hasan] Well, we have taken measures in terms of stopping export licenses; in terms of phosphate—of course this is going to be a major blow to our economy; in terms of banking—of course all the deposits of Jordanians working in Kuwait have been frozen, that is to say, the Bank of England is now the window that is supervising giving money to Jordanians, and we have 420,000 of them in Kuwait. Transit trade, re-export, against these things we are tightening up, and we are, of course, facing

a situation calamitous to our economy. It is not only a question of asking for relief. So, yes, we are taking progressively those measures with great seriousness of intent, but with great hardship to our people.

[Reporter] Crown Prince Hasan, thank you very much indeed for joining us.

[Hasan] Thank you very much.

FRG Parliamentarian Arrives for Talks

LD2908123790 DPA in German 1046 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Amman (DPA)—Social Democratic Party [SPD] Bundestag Deputy Hans-Juergen Wischniewski arrived in Amman today for talks with representatives of the Jordanian Government. [passage omitted]

An exchange of views with Crown Prince Hasan, King Husayn's brother, is scheduled for this evening. [passage omitted] Wischniewski is traveling in the region as chairman of the Middle East Committee of the Socialist International and on behalf of the SPD parliamentary group.

Muslim Brotherhood Urges Stand Against West

JN2508071190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
25 Aug 90 p 5

["Brotherhood Intensifies Campaign Against Foreign Presence in Gulf" by staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Al-Juwaydah—In what seems to be a hardening stance towards foreign intervention in the Middle East, members of the Muslim Brotherhood Friday called on all Muslims to reconsider their "reconciliatory" stands on Arab and Muslim issues and prepare themselves to eliminate treachery, corruption and imperialist influence in the region.

"We have been too docile, (and) too willing to reconcile ourselves with wrongs done to us by others," Abd-Hafiz al-'Alawi told about 3,000 people gathered in an open field in al-Juwaydah, a dusty town south of Amman.

"We have accepted that European Jews occupy Palestine and rule Muslim shrines in Jerusalem. Now will we also accept that the armies of a Zionist-imperialist America rule Mecca and al-Madinah? What has the world come to? Have we no pride? al-'Alawi asked in a thundering voice.

Notables of the Muslim Brotherhood addressed the crowd of about 2,500 men and 300 women in what seemed to be a more concerted effort by the Brotherhood to retain prominence in the political arena. While Islamist groups have effectively been working alongside pan-Arab and leftist groups to organize popular support for Iraq and voice opposition to foreign intervention in the region since the Gulf crisis began three weeks ago, the

continued condemnation of leftist political thought at Brotherhood rallies has not ceased.

During an anti-foreign-intervention rally in Ma'an last Wednesday Muslim Brotherhood members quarrelled with pan-Arabists in an apparent violation of a decision made by the Brotherhood's leadership to put differences aside for the moment and "work together in the greater interests of the region."

In al-Juwaydah, al-'Alawi charged that the communist world had not been better than the imperialist West in their "actual" role in the Middle East. "They pretended to be our friends, but of course they were not, and those who were foolish enough to believe them have paid their price," al-'Alawi told the crowd, which included at least 200 children.

Speakers charged that Arab leaders had allowed the Middle East to be ruled by foreign powers and exploited to benefit non-Arab interests. "We control nothing," said one. "We do not control our water flow, our oil flow or our governments, and now Americans in shorts will control the holiest shrines of Islam."

Squandering of Arab wealth by "the rich and affluent" was described by one speaker as the "epitome of decadence which we have allowed by our inaction against those who control the wealth in Arabia."

Speakers also warned of the day that America would punish Western European countries and Japan for challenging its economic superiority. "The Americans want their hands on the oil faucet so they can turn Japan and Europe on and off at their will," one speaker said.

Fears voiced by Jordanians about the possibility of war in the region over the Gulf crisis were dismissed by speakers as the "whimperings of cowards who have no pride, and of those who won't fight for justice deserve to be humiliated by injustice."

A musical group from al-Yarmuk university concluded the rally with songs calling for the defence of Jordan and the greater Arab Homeland.

"This homeland—the foreigners don't want it to exist," said one participant pointing to a foreign photographer.

The Muslim Brotherhood is the only political grouping in Jordan that has been permitted to function openly in the Kingdom since political parties were banned in 1957. The group ran as an official bloc in last November's parliamentary elections and won 22 seats in the 80-member parliament. Supported by about 10 other Islamists, the group carries considerable weight in the Lower House. Political parties are expected to be legalised once a National Charter is announced later this year and the Brotherhood, according to analysts might not be able to repeat such gains once other political groups can operate on the same footing.

Summit With Syria to Address 'Awn's Status

*NC2908142590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian summit which is being held between Presidents Ilyas al-Hirawi and Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus has stolen the limelight. The summit is attended by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss on the Lebanese side and Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam along with the speaker of the people's assembly and prime minister on the Syrian side.

Observers attach great importance to the results of this summit which will determine the next stage and define the steps toward legitimacy, tackle the general conditions in the country and deal with General 'Awn. The summit will mark the beginning of the implementation of the [government's] 11 July statement and subsequent measures, some of which have been made public while others have not been disclosed.

Sources close to the government expect the Lebanese and Syrian sides to define ways of dealing with the status of General 'Awn. They point out that the two sides have agreed to terminate this status peacefully or militarily. According to these sources, this agreement was reached during the discussions which the Syrian military delegation held in Beirut a few days ago. The sources said that as a result of these discussions, the Lebanese army command adopted measures to merge some of the army's brigades to prepare the ground for the takeover of the eastern area.

Citing political sources, AL-NAHAR paper says that a solution to the problem of General 'Awn is no longer remote and that it will occur in the first 10 days of September. The paper adds that the Lebanese-Syrian agreement indicates clearly that 'Awn cannot maintain his present status because of Lebanese and Arab reasons and that it is necessary to resolve this situation quickly.

Informed sources have leaked information to AL-NAHAR to the effect that if 'Awn cannot be persuaded to abandon B'abda and al-Yarzah to the legitimate government in order to define Beirut and hence greater Beirut, then a military operation will become inevitable and it will take place before 10 September, that is, before the date of the founding meeting of the international fund for aiding Lebanon. It will be a lightning and very violent operation.

A ministerial source has stated that resolving the situation in the eastern area will constitute the start toward radical solutions. This, according to the source, requires the removal of Gen. Michel 'Awn as a condition for making progress on the level of the central legitimate authority which cannot exercise its role if it does not succeed in ending the rebellion as an approach to the implementation of the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement.

AL-SAFIR quotes political sources as saying that preparations are in full swing at the Lebanese Army's command which is preparing to implement the cabinet's decision to end a mutiny by some officers and men.

Al-Hirawi Returns From Syria, Issues Statement

*NC2908203490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut from Damascus at 2030 today after holding two rounds of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has remained in the Syrian capital while Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss left Damascus for Cairo to participate in the Arab foreign ministers conference.

Meanwhile, the president's office issued the following statement this evening:

President Ilyas al-Hirawi paid a working visit to Damascus today. He was accompanied by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss. They held two working meetings with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Dr. Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. They discussed Lebanese and Arab conditions, especially following the endorsement of the constitutional amendments, and the efforts to implement the security and political aspects of the national accord document.

At the end of the Lebanese-Syrian summit, Syria gave its pledge to the Lebanese legitimate government to lend it its full support to establish the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory, revive the constitutional institutions, and eliminate the obstacles facing the Lebanese Government's march. Syria fully responded to Lebanon's requests on all levels.

Following the conclusion of the summit, Prime Minister al-Huss and Minister Faruq al-Shar' left for Cairo to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference. In the Egyptian capital, al-Huss will hold talks with the ministers of the Higher Tripartite Arab Committee on Lebanon.

Economy Minister in Syria To Purchase Fuel, Gas

*NC2908192890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] Economy and Trade Minister Nazih al-Bizri left for Damascus today where he met with Syrian Oil Minister Dr. Matanyus Habib. They discussed the possibility of concluding an agreement for the purchase of fuel and gas from the Syrian Government to meet the needs of Lebanese markets.

Consul in Kuwait Returns, Submits Report

NC2908144990 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0915 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanon's Consul in Kuwait Faris 'Id visited the government palace this morning to brief Foreign Ministry officials on the condition of Lebanese citizens in Kuwait. Consul 'Id submitted a report to Ambassador Salah Sutaytiyah on the situation in Lebanon and the condition of the Lebanese community there.

'Id arrived in Beirut via Damascus last night.

Lebanese Front Urges Overthrow of Government

NC2908161490 (*Clandestine*) *The Lebanese Radio in Arabic* 1100 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Statement read by Lebanese Front Secretary General Jubran Tuwayni—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Front held its regular meeting under its chairman Dany Sham'un today. It discussed the political siege which the al-Ta'if government has imposed on Lebanese Front members in order to prevent all contacts between the front and political, party, and spiritual leaders in all Lebanese areas.

The front holds that the motive behind this decision was the dismay felt by the al-Ta'if group at the front's success in its policy of openness which took place outside the framework of the al-Ta'if scheme. This policy resulted in opening the crossing points, free movement by civilians between one area and another, and the opening up of the eastern area to Walid Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party. It also reestablished links between the Lebanese Front and former president Sulayman Franjiyah and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party. It also led to contacts between the front and 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan, and others.

The front proceeded in this regard from its policy that states that the solution will eventually be attained through a direct dialogue among all Lebanese political, party, and spiritual families and that it is necessary to separate political conflict from the citizens' daily life. The citizens continue to live under the burden of the policy of blackmail pursued by the al-Ta'if government officials. The Lebanese Front has proceeded from this premise: Let the citizen live freely, let him move freely, let him work freely. Hence, despite the al-Ta'if government's decision which is designed to undermine unity, coexistence, openness, dialogue, and liberties, the Lebanese Front affirms that it will continue its contacts with

all parties and will lay the responsibility for the political siege on the shoulders of those who have beleaguered the people economically and put their livelihood under siege—the al-Ta'if government group.

The front also discussed the deteriorating economic situation. It maintained that the al-Ta'if government is responsible for this deterioration after recklessly squandering the treasury funds in certain deals, reducing the state's currency reserves from \$1.2 billion on 31 January 1990 to \$500 million today. [passage omitted]

In light of the current painful, tragic situation, the Lebanese Front calls for social solidarity among the officials in all the sectors and public utilities in order to organize popular steadfastness against those who conspire against the people. The front also calls on the Lebanese people in all areas to carry out a popular upheaval—a bread revolution which will topple the al-Ta'if government, bring down the artificial barriers, and restore unity and trust among all the Lebanese people.

Explosions Heard in Pro-'Awn Unit's Barracks

NC3008060690 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0515 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] According to security reports, two explosions occurred in a barracks of General 'Awn's units in Rumiya last night. An explosion rocked the Rumiya area at 2245 last night, followed by another explosion shortly afterwards. An ambulance rushed to the scene to remove the casualties. It has been learned that there are more than 40 casualties including three dead and that they are all military men.

Gunmen Kill Palestinian Official in Camp

NC3008083190 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0815 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] REUTER has reported that Samir Hurani, Palestinian official in charge of the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, was assassinated today when gunmen stormed his house and opened fire with machine guns. Hurani was killed instantly, and his daughter was injured.

Amal-Hizballah Fighting Resumes 30 Aug

NC3008085090 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic*
0815 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Fighting resumed today between the Amal Movement and Hizballah along the combat lines of 'Arab Salim, Kafr Milki, and Jarju' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Rockets and machine guns are being used in the clashes.

5,000 Troops Reportedly Deployed to Iraqi Border

*JN2908065990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0620 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] In Ankara, a foreign military source said that Syria has dispatched a 5,000-soldier force to its border with Iraq in order to protect its oil installations in the northeast and in Dayr al-Zawr area in the south. The same source noted that the Syrian military deployment might prevent any Iraqi attack on Turkish targets.

Troops Surround Cities After Pro-Iraqi Protests

*NC2908171990 Paris AFP in English 1708 GMT
29 Aug 90*

[Text] Amman, Aug 29 (AFP)—Security forces Wednesday surrounded the Syrian towns of Al-Hasakah and Dayr al-Zawr after violent pro-Iraqi protests erupted in the two communities near Syria's border with Iraq, reliable sources here reported.

Security forces have threatened to open fire unless the demonstrators dispersed, the sources said. The protests took place at around 5 p.m. (1400 GMT) with demonstrators chanting support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

It was not immediately clear if the protests had ended.

Travellers from Syria said here earlier that security forces had clashed in recent days with pro-Iraqi demonstrators in the two northeastern communities as well as in the border village of Abu Kamal on the Euphrates River. They quoted residents of the western Syrian city of Homs as saying dozens of people were killed.

The three communities in al-Jazirah province are traditionally close to Iraq, although Damascus is a regional rival of Baghdad, which it now opposes in the Gulf crisis.

There was no official confirmation of the clashes from Syria, which does not normally report on unauthorized demonstrations.

Travellers coming from Damascus said the Syrian capital was tense Monday, with dozens of soldiers deployed at main intersections.

A visit to Egypt by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, originally due to take place last Sunday, was delayed until Tuesday without any official explanation. The visit lasted only a few hours.

In February 1982 bloody clashes between the Syrian Army and Moslem fundamentalists in the western city of Hamah killed thousands of people. Estimates for the death toll vary between 3,000 and 20,000.

Discussions Resume With Lebanon on Current Issues

*JN2908185590 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following their meeting at 1200 today, the Syrian and Lebanese presidents and the members

of both sides met at a working lunch hosted by President Hafiz al-Asad in the honor of President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

At 1730 today the two presidents resumed talks at the Tishrin Palace. The talks were attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

The talks dealt with the Lebanese situation in its various aspects in light of the steps taken to implement the Lebanese national accord document, primarily the constitutional reforms that were approved by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies recently. The talks also covered future steps toward achieving Lebanese national accord, reactivating constitutional institutions, and spreading the authority of the legitimate Lebanese Government over all Lebanese territory.

The two sides also discussed brotherly relations and bilateral cooperation. President al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's decision to extend every possible help to the Lebanese brothers in their endeavor to achieve national accord, spread legitimacy throughout the entire Lebanese territory, and reactivate the Lebanese constitutional institutions.

The two sides also reviewed Arab developments in light of the precarious, explosive situation in the Gulf. The two sides reaffirmed that avoiding the dangers starts with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government to this Arab country.

At the end of the talks, President al-Asad bid President Ilyas al-Hirawi farewell. President al-Hirawi left Damascus at 1830 today to return to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

'Illusory War' Replacing Fight Against Israel

*JN2908192190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Amid this fever of anxiety and anticipation, and in view of the various dangerous possibilities threatening the present of the Arab region, and preparing the future of the entire nation for the worst fate, the question remains the same: Has the mood of the Arab ruler in Iraq come to weigh more in the balance than the whole nation? Has his wrong decision been given more concern than Iraq and the people of Iraq? Is his miscalculated rush at the wrong place and time worth more attention and concern than the unanimity of the nation and its will in difficult crises? Has the invasion of Kuwait and its annexation to Iraq by the force of arms been the only fruit that the Arabs have waited for all these long years, so that they might win, in one day, their fateful battle of liberation and progress? And, has the enemy of the nation really been changed, having departed occupied Palestine and appearing suddenly in

Kuwait, so that we might know in which direction Iraq has pointed its arms on the 2nd of August, and is still pointing them until now?

By every logic and norm we have been accustomed to in the Arab world throughout all these decades, the nation has been worth more than any individual ruler in it; the wrong decision has always been attributed to its maker; and the nation has never borne the blame for this decision. In fact, the nation has always called on anyone who makes a wrong decision to reverse the decision, whatever his motives or reasons. The nation's unanimity has always been the arbitrator that does not afford argument between right and wrong in issues that infringe upon the security of the whole nation, in its present and future.

The substance of the decisions of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo was a reflection of that unanimity, which rejected and denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and called for reversing it so that the solution would remain Arab, the decision Arab, and the foreigner would lose any pretext to gather in our waters or on our land in the Gulf.

For, none of us would like to see the foreigner come to his country, even if this foreigner were a friend, as President al-Asad said in his pan-Arab appeal at the Cairo summit: The event brought the foreigners, and not vice versa.

The enemy of the nation in occupied Palestine has not changed. Moreover, the danger this enemy poses to our pan-Arab existence surpasses all dangers and its ambitions in our land and wealth are above all other ambitions. This enemy does not discriminate between the oil of Iraq and that of Kuwait, nor between Syrian or Egyptian soil. Why, then, are we ignoring this inarguable fact, and replacing the battle of pan-Arab existence with the Zionist enemy by an illusory war with the brother, whose victim this time was Kuwait?

We still adhere to our principles: We denounce this Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and demand its reversal, so as to safeguard both Iraq and Kuwait. We say this out of our concern for a single Arab position to facilitate a single Arab solution and then allows us to deal with the foreign presence brought by the event into the Gulf. We are sticking to our principles, in that we view any effort or argument outside this context as a waste of time which will not lead to the solution, regardless of the good intentions behind it. This is because the law of force among the Arabs should not dominate and because the logic of annexation and addition by force among the Arabs conflicts with our principles and our pan-Arab ambitions, under all circumstances.

Iraq Urged To Withdraw 'Before It Is Too Late'

JN3008070090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0445 GMT 30 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "In Order That Allegations Not Override Principles", the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today that when Syria opposes the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it proceeds from principles, not opportunism, and from concern for Arab unity, not from deception and mixing of cards and colors. It adds: After all they have done, those who are now trying to use the slogan of unity—which is sacred to the Arab masses—to cover their recent action cannot deceive the public. The dispute between them and the Kuwaiti Government was not about unity or Arab solidarity against the enemy of all the Arabs in Palestine, but about material, financial, and oil considerations, nothing more.

AL-BA'TH says that the Iraqi regime's action and the dangers it posed to the Arab nation are directed not only against Arab unity but also against the existence of the Arab nation. The action poses threats to Iraq itself—its army, people, territory, and economy.

The paper concludes: The outcome of the Alexandria summit between Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak the day before yesterday clarifies all the dimensions of the Iraqi action against Kuwait and the horrible perils this invasion brought to the Arab nation, and Iraq in particular. The summit also defined a way to remedy the problem and the only method to reach a solution. What Iraq did is rejected on Arab, regional, and international levels. Everyone is sincerely and firmly calling for saving the Arab nation and the Iraqi people in particular from this sinful crime, which cannot be curbed except by the Iraqi withdrawal and return to normalcy in Kuwait.

AL-THAWRAH said in one of its commentaries that as the days go by without a peaceful solution to resolving the stormy crisis in the Gulf and putting an end to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, dangers to the Arab nation in general and Iraq in particular heighten, and the possibility of a military solution gains ground. The frightening specter of this military solution is looming over the region, threatening a disaster with unpredictable consequences.

The paper adds: So far, all facts indicate that things are getting worse and are taking on dramatic shapes that promise no good. It goes on to say: Undoubtedly, all the Arabs are seeking to spare Iraq this horrible disaster and are exerting every possible effort to save it from the fatal predicament caused by some reckless people seeking crazy personal ambitions and glory, which serve only the enemy. Naturally, Israel finds that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has put it at psychological ease and created the appropriate circumstances for it to escalate its oppressive practices against the revolutionary youths. The Iraqi action, furthermore, distracted Arab and world attention from Israel's designs of annexation, Judaization, and settlement in the West Bank and Gaza. It is therefore urgent that the Iraqi officials heed the voice of reason and withdraw, before it is too late, anything that can be used as an excuse to hit Iraq and destroy its capabilities.

Bangladesh

Effort To Evacuate Nationals From Gulf Detailed

BK2908165890 Dhaka Domestic Service In English
1530 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] A foreign office spokesman said in Dhaka today, efforts are underway for chartering ships and additional aircraft to repatriate the Bangladeshis from the Gulf region. According to reports, more and more Bangladeshis trapped in Kuwait are rushing to border (?often). He said an estimated 35,000 Bangladeshi nationals have gone to Jordan and Iraq-Turkey border in their desperate bid to get out of troubled Kuwait. The government has chartered a wide-bodied aircraft from the Malaysian Airlines for airlifting the stranded Bangladeshis from the Middle East. The government is also trying to charter an aircraft of the Turkish Airlines. Negotiations for chartering a ship of the Jordanian shipping lines are now in the final stage.

Weekly Banned for 'Prejudicial' Article

BK2908162690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1602 GMT
29 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 29 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities Wednesday banned a popular Bengali weekly newspaper under the tough Special Powers Act of 1974 for publishing a prejudicial article, an official statement said. It said the August 30 issue of "Khabarer Kagaj" (newspaper) in its article titled "The Dance of Joy by the Corrupts" contained comments on the running of the government that could create "enmity, hatred, fear or concern" among different sections of the population.

The ban came about one month after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad declared that his government had ensured "full freedom of the press in the country." "Freedom of the press being enjoyed by the newspapers of the country is no less than any other democratic country," Mr. Ershad reportedly said, adding that the press should criticize the faults and at the same time it was their responsibility to praise the government's good work.

The article comments in its "Headline" column that a prediction by Moslem Philosopher Sheikh Sadi that a time would come when "illiterates would rule the nation by ordering crazy ordinances" was already here.

"We are confronted by such incidents every day and also finding many similarities," it said.

The official announcement added that the sale of the weekly edited by Naimul Islam Khan has been banned with immediate effect.

The editor of the weekly was not immediately available for comment.

Several other publications have been banned earlier under similar orders, despite protests by local journalists.

India

Meetings Continue Between Officials, Najibullah

Discuss Cooperation, Relations

LD2908171690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah met this afternoon, with His Excellency Shankar Dayal Sharma, the vice president of India, in the presidential palace. In the meeting, talks were conducted on the good relations between Afghanistan and India and the expansion of relations between the two sides. The esteemed president of Afghanistan spoke about the political and military situation and on recent developments in the country.

Expressing gratitude for the help of the friendly country of India in economic, technical, cultural and various other spheres, he said: the friendship has developed in various historic stage in the interest of the people of the two countries, and it will further consolidate and develop in future in line with the high interests of our countries' peoples.

Support for Najibullah Peace Efforts

BK3008035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] India has extended full support to the Afghan president, Dr. Najib's efforts at national reconciliation and for a negotiated political settlement of the Afghan issue. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting dignitary last night, the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, hoped that Dr. Najib's suggestion regarding a transitional period that leads to free and fair elections under the UN supervision will gain support. India, he said, would stand by Afghanistan in any effort, regional or international, to help resolve the external aspects of the problem. Mr. Venkataraman regretted that the parties to Geneva accord have not honored their commitments.

The president condemned the blatant interference by some countries in the internal affairs of neighboring nations by providing succor and support to terrorist and secessionist elements. This is neither good-neighborliness, nor does it contribute to peace in the region or the world. Reiterating India's stand for stability and prosperity in its neighboring countries, Mr. Venkataraman extended all assistance for the economic development of Afghanistan.

Criticism for Pakistan's Policies

BK2908161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] India and Afghanistan have severely criticized Pakistan for its policy of destabilizing the situation in the region. The matter came up for extensive discussion at the four-hour long talks between the visiting Afghan president, Dr. Najibullah, and the prime minister, Mr.

V.P. Singh. Dr. Najibullah said that Pakistan's assistance to secessionist elements in the region and its active building up of its armed forces beyond its need is a direct threat to both India and Afghanistan. He supported the steps taken by New Delhi to strengthen peace in the region and to preserve its secular way of life.

Mr. V.P. Singh expressed concern over the inflow of arms into the region which had been made an open market for weapons. He said Pakistan is the only exception in this region which has not improved her relations with her neighbors.

Both the leaders also discussed the situation in the gulf and agreed there cannot be any military solution to the problem.

Later, the two sides signed an agreement for cooperation in dealing with drug trafficking and a cultural exchange program. They also signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in agriculture research.

Government Clarifies Job Reservation Policy

*BK2908160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] It has been officially clarified that there is no difference within the union cabinet on the decision to implement the Mandal Commission report [recommending reservation of additional 27 percent of jobs for backward classes]. Reacting to some press reports on yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, an official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the meeting did not have the Mandal Commission report on its agenda. He pointed out that the full meeting of the cabinet endorsed the decision to implement the recommendations on the sixth of this month before the prime minister made the announcement in Parliament. Prior to that the views of the state governments were collected and the National Front parliamentary party also approved the decision.

The government has clarified that the recently announced reservation for the backward classes [BC's] does not apply to admission to educational institutions. At a meeting with the vice chancellors of Delhi University, Jamia Milia, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi today, the minister of state for human resources development, Mr. Chiman Bhai Mehta, allayed misunderstanding in this regard among the section of the students. He said the reservation for BC's is restricted to government jobs. The meeting was attended by the minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, the cabinet secretary, and the home secretary. Referring to the on-going agitation, the vice chancellors pointed out that the student leaders have advocated peace and nonviolence.

Janata Dal Leader Criticizes Job Reservation

*BK3008045090 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 30 Aug 90*

[Text] The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, says that the academic community feels suspicious that narrow factional and electoral considerations have prevailed over national interests in announcing the implementation of the Mandal Commission report. In a statement issued in New Delhi yesterday, he alleged that the government's announcement for extending 27 percent reservations for backward classes has come without going into its far-reaching implications. Mr. Chandra Shekhar says enthusiasm to give top priority to caste-based reservations only provides handle to those forces which are basically against any endeavor to give the oppressed sections their rightful place in the society.

Minister Briefs Parliament on Oil Situation

*BK2908130390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] The petroleum minister, Mr. M.S. Gurupadaswamy, has said some more measures may be necessary to reduce consumption of oil in view of the continuing Gulf crisis. Replying to a calling attention motion moved by Mr. Ajit Panja, Congress-I, and four others, he said the government is taking all necessary steps to import sufficient quantities of crude so that people are not put to any difficulty. The minister said positive signals in this regard have already been received from Malaysia and the Soviet Union. He said India is now persuading Moscow to supply crude from some other source as its supplies of the Iraqi crude have been disrupted. He also said that a delegation will be leaving for West Asia in a day or two to explore availability of more crude.

The calling attention related to the situation arising out of the closure of the Barauni, Guwahati, and Bongaigaon oil refineries as a result of the oil blockade by the All Assam Students Union. The minister regretted that while the country is facing a difficult situation on the oil front, the youths in Assam have resorted to agitation disrupting oil production. He said the country has suffered an estimated 70 to 80 crore rupees loss because of the oil blockade. The minister appealed to the youths to call off the ONGC bundh [Oil and Natural Gas Commission strike] which is continuing since the seventh of this month.

Oil Supplies Arranged From Iran, Saudi Arabia

*BK2908151990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] The government has arranged new supplies of crude oil from Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Indonesia to meet the situation following the Gulf crisis. A deal of half a million tons has been clinched with Malaysia alone. Spot purchases are to be made in Iran and Saudi Arabia. The newly set up cabinet committee

on oil management met in New Delhi today to review the measures to deal with disruption of crude supply from Kuwait, Iraq, and USSR. A government delegation today left for the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to tie up further supplies of crude and petroleum products. Another delegation is already in the USSR to take up the matter with the Soviet Government.

7,114 Total Nationals Flown From Amman to Bombay

BK2908164090 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0830 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] Air India flew in 974 stranded Indians from Amman this morning on the first three of the four flights being operated between Amman and Bombay. So far, the airline has brought in 7,114 Indians from Amman to Bombay. It has operated 15 Boeing-747, five Airbus-A300 and one Airbus-A310 flights so far.

Governor Notes Improvement in Kashmir Situation

BK2908083490 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, has said that the situation in Kashmir Valley has shown improvement and the people are anxious for the restoration of complete normalcy. Addressing a meeting of the Rajya Sainik [state military] Board in Jammu yesterday, he said with the arrest of top militants, the security forces have succeeded in foiling the nefarious designs of the terrorists to create large-scale disturbances in the state.

Five 'Terrorists' Among Nine Killed in Punjab

BK2808032290 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 28 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists are among nine killed in separate incidents last night. According to an official spokesman, three terrorists were killed in two separate encounters in Amritsar District and two in Fatehgarh Churian of Gurdaspur District. Some arms and ammunition including three AK-47 rifles were recovered from the killed terrorists. In Bhatinda District, terrorists struck at a liquor vend, killing the salesman and a Home Guard volunteer on duty in village Chandoke.

Six Including Five 'Terrorists' Killed in Punjab

BK3008052990 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0435 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In Punjab, five terrorists are among six persons killed in separate incidents since yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, a police party returning after recovering some arms and ammunition at the instance of two under-trial terrorists, were ambushed near the village Bhuru in Amritsar District. Both the terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire when they tried to escape.

In an incident of intergang warfare, one terrorist was shot dead in Sirhali area of Amritsar District. Earlier, in two separate encounters, one terrorist was killed and two were injured and arrested in (Vicki) area of Bhatinda District and one terrorist was killed in Shri Hargovindpur area of Gurdaspur District.

'Hard-Core Terrorists' Arrested in Rajasthan

BK3008043690 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In Rajasthan, police have arrested three hard-core terrorists from a village in Ganganagar District. One of the arrested terrorists carried a reward of 50,000 rupees on his head. According to the state director general of police, the arrested terrorists were planning to cross over to Pakistan.

Curfew Imposed, Army Called Out in Shillong

BK3008033490 *Delhi Domestic Service in English*
0240 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] In Meghalaya, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Shillong since last evening following increase in untoward incidents of attack, arson, and stone throwing by miscreants. Army has been called out to assist the civil administration for maintaining law and order.

Iran

Khamene'i Says U.S. Presence 'Sinister'

LD2908162790 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Address by "great leader of the Islamic revolution," his eminence Ayatollah Seyyev 'Ali Khamene'i on 29 August to released prisoners of war and martyrs' families from Kahnuij; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. The presence of our dear released POW's, these proud free people, among us, and next to the esteemed families of the lofty martyrs, clearly make all of us, the officials, and all strata of our nation, understand that the outcome of patience and resistance, selflessness and devotion is sweet fruit. [passage omitted]

The Islamic revolution offered a new example to human societies and countries. It remains a new example; and if we perform our task well, it might remain a unique example for human societies in centuries to come. This is what frightens the enemy. Arrogance is afraid of the same thing; the oil-guzzling companies of the world and the exploiting capitalists of the world are afraid of the same thing. If there were something in the name of Islam that would not harm their sheep and cattle and interests, they would not oppose it. No one is against the kind of Islam that does not negate the satanic powers, tyranny, and discrimination. [sentence as heard] They are against the sort of Islam that says: There is no God, but Allah. They are against the Islam that

supports mankind. They are against the Islam that opposes tyranny, oppression, and bullying. They are against the sort of Islam that, when it gained power, ousted the hands of capitalists, bullies, foreign advisers, parasites, and the vultures who were feeding on the dead body of monarchy in this country.

When their interests in the Islamic republic were threatened and cut off, the East and the West joined hands to support the aggressor who invaded Iran. Today they have dispatched forces to the Persian Gulf to challenge Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Of course, aggression is a very bad thing. Iraq was wrong to invade Kuwait and will be forced to regret this aggression and retreat. No doubt about it. But are those who have come to the region to confront the aggression and to mess up the geographical map of the region right? Do they confront aggression? They are striving to protect their own interests. If you, America, you the great capitalists of the world, are fighting to safeguard your own interests, why should the nations of the region tolerate your presence in the region? America's presence in the countries of the Persian Gulf region, or anywhere else, is inauspicious and sinister. It does not bring security anywhere. It is not the sort to confront aggression. It is an aggressor itself.

Is the aggression against Kuwait any different from the aggression against Grenada, Panama, and other places? Why did the permanent members of the Security Council not adopt such a stand vis-a-vis that aggression? Are they really opposed to aggression? How is it good when America launches aggression and not good when others do so? Aggression by anybody is bad. We are opposed to aggression.

The time when the Iraqi aggressors were on our territory—for several consecutive years—we kept saying: they are aggressors, and aggressors must be punished. We said: If the aggressor is not punished today, the aggression will remain in the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf. At that time they all joined hands and none of them listened to our words—and today they are beset by its evil. Today I again say that their prime hostility is against Islam. All of them, if their interests were to dictate, would be ready to unite once again against Islam. They are ready. What they oppose is the awakening of nations and awareness of nations; and Islam brings this awakening, awareness, and steadfastness.

Those who became anti-American overnight and have started shuttle diplomacy, making anti-American remarks, are ridiculed by the world intellectuals. They have spent a life sitting around America's tablecloth to feed and graze and they have managed to rule for some time with America's money and guns; suddenly they have become anti-American. They sit here and make anti-American remarks. Nothing doing. Only those who have maintained a fixed and clear stance in opposing aggression and bullying can claim to be against America, to be against arrogance and bullies. No bully can say: I am against America.

All bullies oppose each other; when wild wolves become hungry they all fall out with each other. This is not something to be proud of. The Soviet Union and the United States stood opposite each other for so many years like two hungry wolves and fought each other, trampling helpless nations underfoot. Was it an object of pride for the Soviet Union to be against the United States or for the United States to be against the Soviet Union? Pride belongs to that nation, system, and government that stands steadfastly opposite the United States for the sake of truth, correctness, salvation of people, for the sake of confrontation and struggle against oppression and the oppressor. It is the Islamic Republic and God's pious subjects, the Muslims, and no one else, who will stand steadfastly opposite the United States or any other power. Our nation will preserve these stances; the Islamic Republic's system and our dear, hardworking, devoted statesman will preserve these stances.

We thank God that today our government, our president, officials, Majlis deputies, judicial branch officials, and our Armed Forces are pure, healthy, and correct human beings; they are the companions of the imam, the disciples of the imam, the followers of the path of the imam, the imam whose formidable countenance inspired hope in each one of the persons who were captive. Even now that he is not physically with us, still, his soul, his memory are inspiring us. Around Islamic countries, his memory is still exciting the awakened and alert consciences. Poets write poems, nations chant slogans, intellectuals write and speak about him.

This nation has moved behind the imam. When I look at the scene of the release of our dear POW's, our respected released POW's, they have returned and are standing firmly, steadfastly like mountains, like steel. When the nation welcomes them, it is showing the same morale it displayed during these past 10 or 12 years, during the most crucial times. Dear young ones, dear children, dear combatants, when you left for the fronts, this nation saw you off with enthusiasm, devotion, and its slogans. Now that you have returned, this same nation is welcoming you with the same excitement and enthusiasm. This is an extraordinary nation; a unique nation; it is unique in its alertness, courage, steadfastness. This nation's stances are strong and we thank God that the officials of this nation too spring from the nation itself, think in the same way, talk, act, and live in the same way.

We have no worries; we fear no one. Whom should we fear? [Koranic verse] God has said: Do not fear any power. Our nation has not and will not be fearful of any power, and no power can do anything to harm this revolution and this country. [slogan chanting includes: Death to America; Death to the Soviet Union; Death to the Hypocrites and to Saddam; Death to Israel]

I will return to what I said at the beginning: If you want to be an ummah [community], which is made up of the best people, you should preserve your links with God. [Koranic verse in Arabic] [passage omitted]

We hope that God will always keep our dear nation happy and proud; we pray that God may return the rest of our dear POW's to the folds of the nation and homeland as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Larijani Comments on Invasion of Kuwait

NC1308212790 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
4 Aug 90 p 2

[Political commentary by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the Iranian Foreign Ministry: "The Usurpation of Kuwait"]

[Text] 1. The Iraqi regime has consistently pursued three main objectives during the course of the past two decades: preponderance over Iran, assumption of the role of gendarme of the Persian Gulf, and leadership of the Arab world. Of course, these three objectives have been pursued in that order as it is not possible to gain control of the Persian Gulf without preponderance over Iran. Without control of the Persian Gulf, the leadership of the Arab world is not possible. Saddam has been yearning for these three objectives for the past 20 years.

2. Unfortunately, the imposed war ended in such a manner that the Iraqi regime—which in the eight years of war witnessed repeated major military setbacks—assumed that it had attained military preponderance over Iran and therefore should now move in the direction of the next objective: that is, the control of the Persian Gulf.

3. The occupation of Kuwait can undoubtedly be considered a major and fateful stride toward Iraq's second strategic objective. From the economic point of view, Iraq has acquired unprecedented wealth which will transform it into one of the richest countries of the Middle East. From the geopolitical vantage point, one of Iraq's major problems, that of not having a proper coastline on the Persian Gulf waters, will be resolved. However, neither of these gains will be able to match the importance of obtaining control over the Persian Gulf.

The usurpation of Kuwait (even in the event of a withdrawal of Iraqi troops, and the return of the former amir) will bring all the shaykhs of the area—who are like saplings with roots so near the surface that they can be pulled out by one stroke of the spade—under the aegis of Iraq!

4. Without any doubt, the United States and Great Britain have sustained a major shattering blow with the Iraqi action, especially in view of their long-term plan for this area, that of harnessing the whole of Europe!

In my view, the Soviet Union stands to gain in this regard because: First, it has not lost anything. Second, following its consecutive retreats in Afghanistan, Africa, and Latin America, an issue has arisen in one of the most important areas of U.S. and British domination which requires the influence of the Soviet Union, and has now placed the Soviet Union in a position to do some serious bargaining with the United States and Great Britain.

5. Even at this juncture, Iraq's action can be considered a serious threat to Iran's vital interests. Only collective and regional security would be acceptable to Iran, which would reject any special gendarme. If Iraq were to gain control of the Persian Gulf area today, then tomorrow it would announce some territorial claims, and would even interfere in the sale of oil!

In such circumstances, what should be the course of action for Islamic Iran? In my opinion, the following guidelines would be useful in clarifying the issue:

A. The Islamic Republic of Iran should, without delay, enter into consultations with the shaykhdoms which are under direct threat from Iraq. It should initiate preliminaries for a defense pact with them and should pledge its responsibility to protect them in case of any eventuality.

B. Iran's policy in the region aims at attaining collective and regional security. In view of the present tendencies that have manifested themselves among the regional elements, we can boldly capitalize on the situation by means of an active, calculated, and dynamic diplomacy, and we can thus pave the way for establishing security in the region.

C. There should be no doubts in Iraq that the vital interests of Iran in the Persian Gulf constitute a red demarcation line and any attempts to approach it would be expensive and dangerous.

D. Iran's defense strategy should be based on these principles so that the Islamic Republic of Iran may establish the most heavily armed and greatest Armed Forces in the region, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's navy should, especially, guarantee the vital interests of the system in the Persian Gulf waters.

Khamene'i, Leaders View Government Work

LD2308182190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 23 Aug 90

[Excerpts] At a meeting granted to the president of the Republic and members of the cabinet on the threshold of the government week this afternoon, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the grand leader of the Islamic revolution, expressed his appreciation for the valuable efforts of the government over the past year in serving the country's self-sacrificing people. In appreciation of the efforts and self-sacrifices of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani during the imposed war, he conferred on him the Order of Fath [victory], first class.

In his remarks at the same meeting, the leader praised the memory of Dr. Bahonar and Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i as two valuable martyrs of the Islamic revolution. He said: These two great men who were of the people and working for the people, and whose existence was imbued with the aspirations of the revolution, were really among the outstanding and distinguished elements of the regime. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i then explained the pillars of government and their progress toward attaining the targets of the Islamic revolution and people. He then said: Movement and making efforts constitute a principle in which fatigue will have no meaning. The harder the path of God is, the more interested the faithful are. The faithful will have greater driving force to follow God's path if the going is difficult, because they understand the importance of their movement. [passage omitted]

He stressed the need for steadfastness by the government in its moves and in its duties. He added: Once you follow the path of God, then such elements as hardships, problems, obstacles, and disappointing issues cannot wear you down; such things cannot diminish the incentive to work among the faithful. Our people qualify to be served. If our officials manage to prove their services, then they will have achieved a great glory. [passage omitted]

The great leader stressed the need to pay attention to the needs of the strata and classes who have been victims of injustice during Iranian history and under the [previous] social regime of Iran. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i believes that the establishment of a social popular regime, based on the foundations of God's religion and of divine senses and values, is a miracle of contemporary period. He added: Muslim nations are besotted with Iran's Islamic revolution; that is no exaggeration, rather it is an undeniable reality. Despite all the propaganda by global arrogance, our nation continues to have optimism in the Islamic revolution and the Islamic republic; the nation has definite hope in that movement.

He stressed that Islamic Iran must unconditionally remain faithful to its ideological principles in confronting world powers, in devising its foreign policy, and in running internal affairs. He added: The secret of our society's well-being lies in the fact that the people assemble around the axis of faith in God. We must strengthen every moment of such life in our social regime. We must drive the nation toward a more profound and expanded Islamic education. [passage omitted]

Referring to the return of the freed POW's, the leader said their return has set a new scene in front of the world. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i explained the importance of reviving the work ethic among the employees of the various departments of the country. At the end of his remarks, he expressed appreciation and praise for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his selfless and capable presence in various scenes of the imposed war, and as a sign of his appreciation he awarded the president the order of fath.

Before the speech by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the forthcoming government week. While honoring the memory of two esteemed martyrs of the Islamic revolution, Dr. Bahonar

and Raja'i, he said: The calculations of our enemies, which were based on materialistic criteria, were incorrect. Now the forecasts of the late great leader of Islam, His Eminence Imam Khomeini—may God be satisfied with his soul—are coming true. The reason for that is our present situation.

He then described the existing coordination between the country's various departments and the executive officials as favorable and satisfactory. He added: We are satisfied with the results of our work; but we wish to attain our goals as quickly as possible, within the framework of our program. Regarding economic problems, we have succeeded in reducing our budget deficit, which is the root of all our difficulties, and the situation of the government's treasury is better than ever.

On holding the initiative in the region and the world, he said: We do not act passively anywhere. At present the revolution and the Islamic Republic are considered to be a sound basis for maintaining balance in the region, and the world has come to believe that the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be ignored.

In conclusion, the president submitted to the leader a short report on the cultural situation, manufacturing activities, and the fight against narcotics. He described his eminence's support for the government as heartwarming for the members of his cabinet and the country's officials.

Habibi Reviews Achievements

LD2608084390 Tehran IRNA in English 0733 GMT
26 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—First Vice President Hasan Habibi here Saturday said that the Iraqi acceptance of the 1975 accord, return of the Iranian prisoners of war and economic stability were among the major accomplishments of the government during the past year.

Speaking on television on the occasion of the government week, started August 24, Habibi said that reaffirmation of rightfulness of Iran's stances during the eight years of war marked another victory for the Iranian nation. He also told the viewers that the present administration deserves credit for its success in curbing the inflation and reducing liquidity.

Editorial Reviews 18 Jul Mohtashami Speech

PM1008141690 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian
25 Jul 90 pp 9, 25

[Editorial: "Strengthening or Weakening?"]

[Text] On 18 July, during a pre-agenda speech at the Majles, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami made some comments about the government's economic program as well as the latest rulings by the Council of Experts which require some thought. Of course his criticism of the actions of the government in the field of economics results in a daily and permanent discussion and there

have been many views for and against this, both in the Majles and in the media. But jumping at the Council of Experts and its latest rulings, especially from the angle that he has chosen, is something new that must be discussed since silence at this time is not proper.

In his remarks he said:

"Unfortunately we have recently seen movements toward weakening the Experts which lowers the Council's level from its current one to that of a parliament that represents the thoughts of a certain faction.

"Setting prerequisites for candidates' membership is up to three teachers from outside of the Theological Center which is something that the Imam also approved of. In reality, all the credentials of the clergy and the Theological Center support the legitimacy of the Experts, but today the setting of prerequisites is supposed to go through the Council of Guardians which unintentionally results in the interference of a specific faction.

"The Imam clearly advised the two factions toward a path of moderation and gave them both bittersweet warnings so that the balance is kept. Whereas today the foundation stones are being laid to make the Experts into a one-faction organization which will weaken the Council of Experts and which will present great danger.

"Another problem that weakening the Experts would have is that the Council of Guardians is chosen by the leader so how can it choose credentials for a group of people whose most important duty will be to decide issues dealing with the leadership?

Will this move not portray future decisions of the Experts as a job already accomplished by others even though the [Experts] decisions may have been made in freedom and in keeping with religious duty?

Another issue that has to be clarified is who decided, and why was there a decision to hold the recent meeting of the experts at the Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyeh, instead of the Majles, against the views of the leadership and against the charter and internal regulations of the Council of the Experts?

"If the Experts do not obey their own regulations and charter, can they expect the people to obey their decisions with their hearts and souls like before? If this happens, what elements are responsible?"

Unfortunately Mr. Mohtashami has confronted the Council of Experts from the wrong angle in the wrong manner, with superficial reasons. Despite the outward appearance of wanting to strengthen the Experts he has in fact weakened this most important organization in the Islamic Republic. In order to clarify his statement, we think it necessary to give some more details.

1. Quite contrary to what Mr Mohtashami believes, the venue for the Experts' meetings has to be the city of Qom, and not the Majles according to the Experts' own charter. Of course the same charter says that if the

Experts decide, they can hold their meeting at another location and this is why several of their meetings were held in the Majles and this last time at the Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyeh. Was there really any action against the charter of the Experts? Does Mr. Mohtashami have an excuse for his lack of information in this regard?

2. According to Article 108 of the Constitution: The law dealing with the numbers, the status of the Experts, the prerequisites for their election as well as the internal charter for their meetings must at the beginning be prepared by the clerical members of the first Council of Guardians and it must be passed by a majority vote, with final approval coming from the leader of the revolution. From then on any changes or reconsiderations in this law and any other regulation dealing with the duties of the Experts, is up to the Experts themselves.

As one can see, the Council of Experts is the most independent organization in the Islamic Republic. So much so that even their numbers, status prerequisites for their elections and the internal charter for their meetings are up to their own members and no one else is allowed to make a decision. As the great leader of the revolution once said: The gathering of the Experts in the regime of the Islamic Republic is the most decisive and the most important organ of the regime. None of the other bodies in the regime have as much importance as the Experts do.

Of course Mr. Mohtashami is aware that the existing Experts are not suffering from factionalism, their members coming from the ranks of the most brilliant religious experts throughout the country. They form the backbone of the theological Center and clerics in general. This is why it could be said with conviction that to allow the clerical members of the Council of Guardians to determine the prerequisites for the Council of Experts only indicates a correct understanding of the issue. One cannot consider this as a reason that would prove something vague that exists in the minds of some of the gentlemen. On the other hand the Council of Experts, the leadership and the Council of Guardians are considered to be the regime's three powerful and important bodies, which according to the law have an organic relationship with one another. This is why the Constitution specifies that the regulations and the charter of the Experts, during the first round, is up to the clerical members of the Council of Guardians. This, of course, would have to be approved by the leader. If Mr. Mohtashami's complaint was well-founded—which it definitely is not—there is also a problem in the Constitution because the Council of Guardians, which is chosen by the leader, is also responsible for drawing up the laws for the Experts. The most important duty of the Experts has to do with the duties of the leadership.

According to recent rulings by the Council of Experts, instead of approving three teachers from the Theological Center—within which one can find many unsuitable people unfamiliar with the issues of the regime and the revolution—there will be six religious experts approved

by the Imam and the great leader of the revolution. This decision will strengthen the election of future members for the Council of Experts.

3. Another even more important point is that if we agree with Mr. Mohtashami, that the clerical members of the Council of Guardians act in a factional way when reviewing candidates' credentials, then the supervision of the Council of Guardians over three rounds of elections for the Majles and five rounds for the presidency also comes under question. The control of Mr. Mohtashami's faction over the Majles is proof enough that the Council of Guardians looks into the credentials of the candidates in accordance with principles, that in general it does not allow political or economic differences and so forth to interfere in this matter. On the other hand in accordance with reality and the Imam's indications in the "brotherhood charter" the two factions that exist in the country agree with one another when it comes to major issues such as leadership. Even though one could say many things about the level of practical support for the leadership by different members of each faction, one cannot bring under question their basic belief in Velayat-e Faqih. So how could the clerics of the Council of Guardians disregard their legal and religious duty and act in a faction manner by putting differences of opinion over economic and political matters above leadership issues? In general, when it comes to the boundaries of leadership and Velayat, are there specific factions for factionalism to take on any meaning? Of course, when Mr. Mohtashami calls his opposing faction "new Hypocrites" [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas]—thereby disregarding the Imam's brotherhood charter and if he recognizes the differences among the factions to be at this high level, then of course he would think it natural for the Council of Guardians to act in a factional way.

4. The final word is that unfortunately on the surface these remarks were made to strengthen the Council of Experts, but actually they weakened this organ of the regime. Bringing up the discussion at this level of logic and reasoning shows the weakness and vulnerability of the viewpoints which Mr Mohtashami in the editorial of the first issue of the "Bayan" publication had warned about. Without a doubt Westerners want to put the revolution's forces into a new line of factionalism in accordance with their drawn-up plans. They want to introduce one as a symbol of the radical faction and one as a symbol of the moderate faction. It would be very naive to believe this line of division and based on this, go against everything and everyone.

Emami-Kashani on Assembly of Experts Candidates

*LD1508152190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] In a press, radio and television interview this morning, Mr. Emami-Kashani, member of the spokesman for the Council of Guardians, spoke about the means of establishing the eligibility of candidates for

the Assembly of Experts by the Jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians. Explaining the reason for designating the Jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians as the authority for establishing the eligibility of candidates, he said: The Jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians are recognized as the most important jurisprudential center in the Islamic Republic of Iran and for that reason, they monitor all laws from that point of view. That authority [the Council of Guardians] can declare its view objectively about theological and jurisprudential matters.

Emami-Kashani spoke about the process through which the Council of Guardians' Jurisconsults will establish the eligibility of candidates. He said: The establishment of a candidates' eligibility will take place by three means. First, the Jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians must ascertain that the relevant candidate has the theological capability of deduction with regard to various jurisprudential matters, and that he also has the theological ability to select a leader.

Second, the candidate must have a theological personality and be renowned among theologians with respect to theological knowledge. And, in the third instance, an exam will be the factor for establishing eligibility.

The spokesman for the Council of Guardians also said the following about the exam: One working group in Tehran and two working groups in Qom—each group consisting of three professors [ostad]—will give written and oral tests to candidates. After receiving the views of the groups, the Jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians will announce their decisive verdict on the eligibility of the candidates.

Mr. Emami-Kashani concluded by explaining that people whose theological capabilities have been explicitly or implicitly affirmed by the eminent leader of the revolution will be exempt from assessment by the Jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians from a theological point of view.

Commentary on Council of Experts Elections

*NC2908163390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The registration of the candidates for the Council of Experts, which began yesterday, will continue for 14 days or until 10 September. Following the registration of the names of the candidates volunteering for membership in the Council, and the endorsement of their qualifications by the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians, the canvassing campaign will be initiated by the candidates.

From the time when the canvassing begins, until 8 October, which marks the end of the electioneering activities, the people of our country will have the opportunity to identify the best candidates and to prepare to

elect them. The tenure of the Council of Experts' office is eight years and the first term began in 1362 [year beginning 21 March 1983].

The election of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, following the demise of His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni (may his soul be sanctified) was one of the most momentous steps taken by this Assembly.

Along with the other pillars of the Islamic Republic's system, the Council of Experts enjoys a special position and status. The Constitution, which has endowed the Council of Experts with the prerogative of electing the leader in Article 107, also stipulates the conditions in which the leader may be removed from office in Article 111. The latter Article states that whenever the leader should prove unable to carry out his legal duties, or should lose one of his qualifications for leadership, or it transpires that he was initially bereft of some of the necessary qualifications, he will be removed from office. This will be ascertained by the Council of Experts.

As is clear, the Constitution specifies three fundamental obligations of the election of the leader, supervision over the Leader as to his maintaining and continuing to have the conditions of leadership, as well as his removal which it has delegated to the Council of Experts. This clearly affirms the importance and position of the Council of Experts and delineates the enormous responsibility of the Council.

The qualifications which have been envisaged as the criteria for those who are volunteering as candidates as members of the Council of Experts in addition to the other general prerequisites, include the condition of Ejtihad [proficiency in jurisprudence] to the extent that he should have the ability to comprehend the various jurisprudential issues and should be capable of discerning the qualities necessary in the Vali-Ye Faqih [Supreme Jurisconsult].

In this regard, following the amendments to the manifesto for the election of the Council of Experts, the endorsement of a candidate's qualifications is entrusted to the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians. Previously this was done in consultations with the seminaries. In view of the fact that there was no specific mechanism in practice for this *modus operandi*, some problems arose in its implementation. Therefore, in order to eliminate these problems and specify a clear mechanism for the endorsement of the qualifications of candidates, the Council of Experts incorporated some amendments in the election manifesto and delegated this task to the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians.

Thus, in view of this mechanism, following the registration of the candidates' names, the jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians will begin the review the documents of the volunteers in order to assess their qualifications. The Muslim people of our country have always given practical form to their religious and national

obligations, by their deep comprehension of the exigencies, and in the light of their commitment in deciding the fate of their society. Therefore, in view of the importance of the elections to the Council of Experts, it is appropriate that they should enter into the action and participate in this new round of the elections with complete sensitivity.

Thus it is imperative that the people should perform this momentous responsibility for the election of suitable candidates closely examining them to identify those who possess the correct political acumen and perception regarding the issue of Iran and the world. Following the endorsement of these candidates, the people should participate in the polling on 8 October.

Finance Ministry Releases Government Report

LD2608162190 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT
26 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA—The Ministry of Economy and Finance has collected rials 1,188 billion (16.9 bn dlr) in taxes for the year 1368 (March 1989-March 1990), 16 percent more than the figure predicted by the 1368 budget.

A report released by the ministry Sunday says "the government's income from taxes, sale of crude oil, oil products and other resources totalled rials 4,433 bn (dlrs 63.3 bn) in 1368, up by 4.4 per cent compared with the previous year."

The report was published on the occasion of government week (Aug. 24-30) marking the martyrdom anniversary of President Mohammad Ali Rajaei and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahaonar who fell victim to a terrorist bomb blast in Tehran on August 30, 1981.

It put total government payments, current credits, development credits and fixed investments at rials 4,433 bn (dlrs 63.3 bn).

The report said that the organization for investment and ecotechnical assistance earned a rial 1.3 bn (dlrs 18.5 mn) profit last year from the shares of government investments abroad.

The organization also dispatched trainees abroad, settled claims between Iran and foreign governments and received rials 8.7 bn (dlrs 124.2 mn) as the principle and interest of the loans granted by Iran to foreign countries, it said.

Other activities of the organization in 1368 included arrangements for signing cooperation protocols between Iran and the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

In the customs sector, the report said, 1.4 million tons of goods worth rials 78.5 bn (dlrs 1.12 bn) were exported in 1368, an increase of 23.1 and 16.9 per cent in terms of weight and value compared with the year before.

It added that Iran's imports increased 63 per cent in terms of weight and 58 per cent in terms of value over the said period.

Minister Briefs Majlis on Financial Situation

LD2908153190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 29 Aug 90

[Excerpts] At this morning's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majlis] Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Nurbakhsh submitted a report on the country's financial situation. He described the government's policies within the framework of the five-year plan. [passage omitted]

During the session, the minister of economic affairs and finance presented a report in four sections. He explained the production, financial, and currency policies, as well as policies related to price fixing and subsidies and the financial position of the government during 1990, as compared to previous years. Nurbakhsh described the financial achievements of the government measured against the budget forecast in the five-year plan and said that statistics and figures show that the country is moving toward a balance from a financial standpoint in a way that we will within the framework of the bill approved by the Majlis be able to reach the earmarked economic growth.

The minister said the rise in government revenues has been good and the achievements of 1989 and the first four months 1990 show we were enjoying an average growth rate of over 50 percent.

Nurbakhsh said the government's foreign exchange policy is presently within the limits of the budget bill. The foreign exchange and rials needed by development projects have been secured for the first time and there are no development or investment projects which, bearing in mind the approved plan and budget bill, have been abandoned due to the nonallocations of foreign exchange and rials.

In the investment field as well the growth in the gross domestic product and the volume of investment is at the limit set down in the budget plan. Nurbakhsh said that, bearing in mind the growth in government revenues, the budget deficit has dropped rapidly and the achievements of the first five months of the current year bring us the good news that the budget deficit during the current year is much less than the legal limit set down by the Majlis. The result is that there has been a drop in the money supply.

Nurbakhsh said there has been a favorable change in the money supply in the sense that the level of bank notes and coins in circulation has dropped and instead people's savings in the banks have increased.

Nurbakhsh added that changes for the better in the financial and monetary sectors have meant that there has been no need to print bank currency up to now. This year no currency has been printed. He said that the huge

economic variables mentioned have enabled the government to continue current policies with more confidence. [passage omitted]

Border Crossings With USSR Open at Jolfa

LD1508115590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Within the framework of an agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union, border crossings by the two countries' citizens began officially today at the Jolfa frontier. In the course of these crossings, residents of the border region in a 45 km area of Iran and the Soviet Union may henceforth travel to the two countries' border towns in order to visit relatives without passport formalities and with only a crossing permit for 15 days. [passage omitted]

It should be mentioned that the commencement of these crossings is a first step in the establishment of economic, commercial, and cultural ties in accordance with the agreement signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Muslims Begin To Cross

LD1808164590 Tehran IRNA in English 1501 GMT
18 Aug 90

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan), Aug. 18, IRNA—A first group of people from Muslim populated Nakhichevan in the Soviet Union arrived in Jolfa of Iran today. The arrival of the group follows an agreement between Iran and the Soviet Union earlier this year for facilitating cross border travels by nationals of both countries.

The group were seen off by local officials and a large group of people in Nakhichevan, whose people along with Soviet Azerbaijanis share a common religion, language and culture with people on the other side of the Iran-Soviet border. According to the agreement, dwellers on either side of the border can travel to any point in the other country within a radius of 45 kilometers from the common frontier, and can stay there for [words indistinct].

Courts To Give Extra Priority to Drug Cases

LD2708121490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Aug 90

[Text] According to a new plan drawn up by the judiciary, the cases of smugglers and merchants of death facing a possible death sentence will be dealt with rapidly and on a priority basis. Mr. Moqtada'i, president of the Supreme Court, announced this and said: The cases of such offenders will go through all the relevant stages of examination within a maximum period of one week to 15 days. With regards to the timing of the implementation of the plan, he said: This announcement should be construed as an official promulgation, and it is incumbent on revolution tribunals and prosecutors' offices to give such cases priority from today and to deal with them expeditiously.

The president of the country's Supreme Court, who was taking part in a press conference, said: In response to persistent requests from our dear and courageous ummah, and to continue the decisive battle against opportunistic and greedy people, in accordance with the measure approved by the consultative session of judiciary officials and the anti-narcotics Headquarters in connection with the offenders who face a possible death sentence, this plan will be implemented starting today.

Praising the security forces, the president of the Supreme Court asked them to actively pursue their duty of confronting smugglers in a very serious and dedicated manner as they have in the past. He also issued a warning to merchants of death and advised them to act as quickly as possible to reform themselves. In addition, The president of the Supreme Court asked the families of smugglers to act, while there is still a chance, to prevent their relatives from committing illegal acts for the sake of the good and the interest of society and to protect themselves from subsequent problems.

Editorial Views Prospects for Iraq Peace Treaty

LD3008093590 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday noted that achievements of President Rafsanjani's administration in the past year were mainly the outcome of close ties between the people and the officials. "ABRAR" wrote in its editorial that past year in the light of economic stability, enormous amounts of dead capital were channeled to production.

Meanwhile, the daily noted, due to adoption of new foreign exchange policies volume of liquidity was reduced remarkably as did the budget deficit. However, although there are still economic problems to be sorted out, an atmosphere of optimism [as received] is becoming prevalent in the society and execution of government programs will gradually bear fruits, noted the article.

The major preoccupation of the government, the war issue, is now over with the Iraqi acceptance of the 1975 accord, said the daily. Moreover, it added, withdrawal of the Iraqi forces and exchange of POWs have paved the way for both Iran and Iraq to ink the peace treaty. In the light of this great victory which further encourages the people and the government to proceed to a more promising future, the administration enjoys better conditions to materialise its objectives, concluded the daily.

Editorial Views Normalization of British Ties

NC1908165790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
6 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "British Stance Acceptable"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd last Wednesday came out with what can take almost all the snags off from the way to normalization of ties between Iran and Britain.

In response to a letter from a conservative member of Parliament the secretary has reaffirmed his government's "greatest respect for Islam" referring to the Moslem faith as "one of the world's greatest religions with a proud history and long tradition".

According to Margaret Thatcher's chief of foreign policy there is just "no question of the British government or people to insult Islam."

These statements clearly speak of the respect shown to the Islamic faith and as such are welcome.

But further than that the British foreign secretary has also shown his understanding about the grievances Moslems have about Salman Rushdie's gravely blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses".

In the same letter answering the question raised by the conservative M.P. Sir Peter Blaker, Hurd stated "We understand that the novel 'The Satanic Verses' was found deeply offensive" and that "we readily acknowledge that devout members of any faith will feel insulted by comments they regard as blasphemous."

Well, it seems the London government has finally come to understand the hurt feelings of Moslems over the insult done to their great religion. More importantly it has moved to compensate for past mistakes in a respect-laden approach.

Last year the Consultative Assembly had asked Iran's Foreign Ministry to sever diplomatic relations with Britain should the latter fail to clarify its position with respect to Islam and condemnation of the Satanic Verses.

Now after a year the British foreign secretary, and before him, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher explicitly have stated their "greatest possible respect for Islam" and have also announced in explicit terms the opposition of the British government and people to the contents of the book.

This logical approach appears to have now lifted the obstacles facing the Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry in restoring diplomatic ties between the two capitals.

With Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's Wednesday statement undoubtedly the greatest snag on the way to improvement of Tehran-London ties have been lifted.

Anyway the acceptance of the British stance as far as the respect to Islam is concerned should by no means be taken as a weakness of any sort on the part of Iran. Rather, the Supreme National Security Council's move Saturday to this end reflects only Iran's goodwill for friendly ties with all those governments which abandon hostile attitudes to Islam and the Islamic Republic.

BAYAN Comments on Merger of Security Forces*NC1008220090 Tehran BAYAN in Persian**22 Jun-22 Jul 90 pp 16,17*

[Unattributed commentary "Report on the Merger of the Security Forces"]

[Excerpts] After several rounds of deliberations, the Majlis approved the bill on the merger of the security forces comprising the [Islamic Revolution] Committee [IRC], the gendarmerie, the police force, all the security forces of the ministries, the judicial police, and so on. On the basis of this bill, the Interior Ministry has been assigned to merge all the security forces within the maximum period of one year and to create a force to be known as the "Security Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The issue of merging the Armed Forces was propounded for the first time by the Armed Forces General Staff in 1367 [1988] as one of the steps to be taken by these headquarters for the mobilization of all the country's resources for the war, as stated in the decree issued by his eminence the imam to the acting commander in chief. [passage omitted]

With the formation of the Armed Forces General Staff and the dissolution of the joint staff of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] on the one hand, and the approval of the bill by the Majlis on the merger of the IRGC and the Defense Ministry on the other, part of the plan was implemented. But as for the merger of the forces, this was not done for several reasons.

Apparently, because the IRGC was always considered to be the major military arm of the revolution and its merger with the traditional organizations (the conventional army) would, in one way or another, decrease its effectiveness in defending the revolution at a sensitive juncture, this topic needed careful study. Thus, this automatically became a major deterrent in the implementation of this stage of the plan. Moreover, Iraq's aggressions in 1988 and the involvement of the war officials in the events effectively postponed the implementation of any kind of plan and called for time. After the demise of his eminence the imam, the idea of the General Staff on maintaining the current form of the forces within two separate organizations was implemented, and as a result the staffs of the IRGC and of the Armed Forces retained their form, and the issue of a merger of the security forces ended. [passage omitted]

Various reasons—such as the difference in the structure of the security forces, the views of these forces on a merger, and the impact that the forces had on one another—turned the issue into a sensitive topic of discussion both in the Majlis and outside.

In view of the role of the IRC as one of the institutions that have had a significant and marked impact on the preservation of the revolution and of the system during the 11 years of the revolution, the reasons that were put forth during the Majlis sessions by those who were

against the merger clearly manifested their concern over the dissolution of a force that was faithful to the revolution, its transformation into a new institution and, ultimately, the disappearance of one of the main institutions of the revolution. While criticizing the fact that experts had not carried out the necessary studies on the significance of the topic, this group maintained that the role played by the forces which believed in and were committed to the revolution was not clear in the bill and that this institution was being compared with other institutions such as the gendarmerie and the police force which had a larger number of personnel and were much greater in extent. [passage omitted]

At any rate, it should not be forgotten that even though the dissolution of institutions that have similar duties is necessary in order to bring about administrative reforms in the country, nevertheless the direction toward which such mergers that have to do with the fate of the mentors of the revolution, and the nonmention of the place that revolutionary movements and institutions will enjoy in the newly-formed organizations, are of vital importance.

Since the Interior Ministry has been assigned the task of preparing the plan for an organization or institution and the bill concerning new personnel and other organizational issues, observing priorities such as revolutionary values in addition to other issues such as discipline and experience in the new organization, as well as defining the place of the revolutionary forces, are the least that can be done to ensure the continuation of the revolution and the strength and stability of the holy system of the Islamic Republic.

Editorial on Role of Debt in Iraq-Kuwait Dispute*NC1008153590 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL**in English 26 Jul 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "A Case of Frustration"]

[Text] When going over the events that unfolded between July 17 when the Iraqi leader delivered his warning on the anniversary of the ruling Ba'th Party coming to power to Kuwait and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] for producing above the OPEC-assigned quotas, and the yesterday's massing of several thousand armored troops near its disputed border oilfields with Kuwait, one may be misled into thinking that the whole problem between the two lies solely in the violations of oil quotas. But that is not the case although oil, or the income generated by it, may have an important role to play.

Unlike the Islamic Republic which depended solely on its own domestic resources, Iraq relied heavily on external debt to finance its war efforts against Iran. However, Iraq's total debt mainly from wartime spending remains a top secret.

But the revelation to the Arab League by Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the effect that Iraq spent \$102 billion on the purchase of military equipment during the war should give an estimate of the massiveness of Iraq's

foreign debt. In general, foreign financing does not come easy for any Third World country and when it finally comes it does so with a lot of strings attached which always create all kinds of real and psychological problems with long term effects and very difficult to solve. Iraq is suffering from foreign debt syndrome and this week's sometimes irrational outpouring of anger is an indication of that.

As a matter of fact, Iraq is beginning to feel the same frustration that much of Third World countries with their trillion-plus debts, with notable example of Brazil, have felt all along. At least Iraq has tiny neighbors to pour its anger on. Many of the Third World indebted countries have no recourse and their struggles push them down the debt swamp. With the floating interest rates dancing to the tunes of the international commercial banks, irrespective of how much money is paid, payments usually serve to take care of "debt servicing" with the principal—like a sacred cow—never touched.

Bankers believe that the \$4 billion payment made by Iraq during the first half of this year, as revealed by Iraqi Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi, most probably only covers Iraq's annual debt service to non-Arab countries not touching the principals.

Of the estimated \$80 billion Iraqi foreign debt some half come from its wartime Persian Gulf allies—i.e. Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia—which bear no interests, nevertheless, registered as its debt. But where is Iraq going to get the money to handle its debt and proceed with its grandiose postwar reconstruction plan with the dropping oil prices and increasing interest rates? This is where Kuwait and other Persian Gulf Shaykhdoms come in. Iraq wants them to cut down on their good lives, share the "houses of wealth" with it and extend generous helping hands in the tune of tens of billions of dollars to its reconstruction plan which they have so far refused to do. After all it fought the war on their behalf too, the Iraqi government argues.

To carry on with its postwar reconstruction Iraq needs financing which has to come from international lending institutions. However, with dozens of billions of dollars as outstanding debt to Persian Gulf states, Iraq credit rating looks less than perfect. So the problem that triggered the contrived crisis between Iraq and the UAE-Kuwait was because of Iraq's desire to have them write off this debt owed to them. And the crisis was artificially brought to its critical point—troop stationing along joint Iraq-Kuwait borders as scare and arms-twisting tactics—so that Iraq would be able to receive international Arab attention to its demands.

Editorial Comments on Iran-Iraq Stalemate

NC1108220490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
30 Jul 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq Needs Political Mettle To End 'No War No Peace'"]

[Text] The price of oil has been set at \$21 per barrel at the latest OPEC meeting of oil ministers in Geneva.

The political crisis which erupted between Iraq on one side and Kuwait and the UAE on the other however strongly affected shock recent oil related developments. [sentence as published] But what is even more important than this is the decision of the Persian Gulf states to strengthen the oil price unitedly.

Today Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran are considered the leading countries in OPEC. In the latest OPEC meeting Iran was considered the leader of the moderate faction, Iraq the leader of the radical ones demanding an illogical price hike, while Saudi Arabia led the conservative group. But what was more important was the return of Iraq to the ranks of countries which wish an increase in the price of oil from a realistic approach to the issue. This Iraqi decision has been welcomed in Tehran.

Some political observers see this step and the common Iran-Iraq position as a good start for more extensive collaboration between the two countries in the not-too-distant future.

However, the problem of the no war no peace situation remains still between the two countries. It seems that the leaders in Baghdad are in doubt about taking all-out steps towards total peace.

Baghdad's problem stems from lack of logical response to Iraqi and Arab public opinion over the cause that started the war. Otherwise it is clear for any political observer in the region that what the Iraqis failed to achieve by unilaterally violating an international accord (the Algiers' Iran-Iraq accord) and waging war at the fronts, they can never achieve at the negotiating table or by delaying the peace process.

The Iraqis should know that had the recent Iran-Iraq cooperation over the price of oil taken place a year earlier, both countries would have tremendously benefited from it.

And today, if the peace trend moves at a quicker pace, it will be Iran and Iraq which will benefit most from it. Therefore, political courage is what is needed most by Iraqi leaders today in facing the no war no peace situation realities and move to end it.

Editorials, Commentary Discuss Crisis in Gulf

Iraq's 'Military Weaknesses'

NC2708160490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
8 Aug 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Iraq' Major Military Weaknesses"]

[Text] During the swift Iraqi onslaught into Kuwaiti territory and its psychological posturing, it appears that the Iraqi forces have certain general military weaknesses in the areas they have usurped and in their probable positions in the future.

The heavy concentration of infantry and artillery forces in open areas in Kuwait and along the areas bordering Saudi Arabia is a vulnerable and fragile tactic which has been imposed on its armed forces in view of Iraq's intention to continue its presence in these areas. In order to preserve its present position to its own advantage, Iraq is forced to display its military strength. This display of strength will include maneuvers and extensive troop movements in the areas under their occupation.

These troop movements are geared to avoid being caught unawares in the event of air attacks. These troop movements make it difficult to pinpoint their locations and minimize their vulnerability.

Iraq is depicting its actions in Kuwait as permanent and its military strength as preponderant.

A glance at the geographical situation, however, indicates that in the event of the outbreak of a larger war, Iraqi forces are vulnerable and have an inadequate defense against extensive air, missile, and even ground attacks.

The Iraqi armed forces, especially their air force, will also be extremely vulnerable to antiaircraft missiles. Turkey, Syria, and Saudi Arabia will be the three focal points for the greatest pressure on Iraq via ground attacks. The probabilities of a large-scale ground attack on Saudi Arabia are minimal.

The size of Iraq and its capabilities to launch extensive classic military operations mean that it cannot launch an extensive land attack against Saudi Arabia. This limits the Iraqi threat against Saudi Arabia to air or missile attacks against the main economic targets.

The possible launch of Iraqi missiles will not have any tangible effect in lessening the preparations for a possible battle on the ground, especially since the presence of Western warships in the Persian Gulf will create operational difficulties for Iraqi warplanes in the region.

An initial attack against Iraq could include a formidable blow against the main military centers, air bases, and support centers deep inside Iraqi territory. The Iraqi response would probably have two dimensions, military and psychological. The military aspect would include chemical and air attacks. The psychological aspect would include the lever of "foreign hostages." Tens of thousands of foreigners are at present in Iraq and Kuwait, including high-level diplomats and experts in various fields, as well as ordinary people. With the spread of the crisis, the danger of their being killed also mounts.

If Iraq's riposte takes the form of air attacks on Saudi Arabia, and if it extends into Turkey, then it creates the possibility of ground attacks from two or three countries. Therefore there would be constant pressure from continuous air attacks which paves the way for the entry of the ground forces into the foray. This would result in a minimum number of casualties for the ground forces. [as published]

At present Iraq has concentrated its ground forces on the three main frontiers between Iran, Turkey, and Kuwait.

Analysts are assessing a possible inclination on the part of Iraq to eliminate tension with Iran.

If the first onslaught is from the land, that is, Turkey, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, the Iraqi command will be confronted by severe disarray, and domestic problems will swiftly mushroom. This would greatly cripple Iraq's ability to mobilize, and this would break Iraq's back from within.

In any case, in the event of an inflexible stance on the part of Iraq regard to the pressure exerted on it, an extensive and multinational war against the Iraqi regime will become inevitable.

UN Response to Iraq Urged

NC1908163790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
9 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Everything Should Be Done Under UN Umbrella"]

[Text] Radio Baghdad yesterday announced the annexation of Kuwaiti territory by Iraq. This news came in the wake of heavy propaganda started by this radio since early yesterday morning.

After their early morning invasion of Kuwait last Thursday the rulers in Baghdad justified their aggression by claiming that the Iraqi army entered Kuwait with the help of a group which had launched a coup in Kuwait. But now Iraq openly announces the death of a country and nation and openly declares that Kuwait is "now a part of" Iraq.

Even though so far the world reaction on Iraq's aggression has been acceptable, today only drastic action can adequately respond to the actions of Baghdad's adventurism.

The most logical thing would have been cooperation among the regional countries for ending the crisis. But such a regional cooperation would have required a powerful response to Iraq which is unfortunately not possible due to internal differences among the regional countries.

Under such circumstances this drastic action should necessarily come from the United Nations. The U.N., as the most important defender of international rights has the greatest right to respond to this open aggression of the Iraqi regime. Such an action will also teach a lesson to aggressors not to violate the rights of other nations in the future.

Of course this does not mean that all member states of the U.N. should send an equal number of forces to the region to confront the Iraqi aggression, because thwarting aggression should not lead to hegemony by any world power or regional power.

But any force that takes the responsibility for thwarting the Iraqi aggression should be under the full supervision of the United Nations. And after the end of the crisis

such a force should leave the region and leave the responsibility of peace and security of the region to the regional countries.

Changes in Kuwait, Region Viewed

NC2508164790 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
12 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Kuwait—an Ongoing Crisis"]

[Text] The consecutive and swift changes in the region during the past week, though they have slackened, do not show any sign of subsiding. The unprecedented and extensive presence of the United States and its Western allies in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia and the gradual dispatch of a multinational Arab force to that country has created an anomaly of Western and Arab forces in the region—ostensibly to defend Saudi Arabia from possible attack by the Iraqi regime.

The complicated nature of the issues and the political and military balances of the region provide Iraq with the opportunity to combine its next move with political stalling, even though some cracks have already appeared in the Arab world. Public opinion has already begun seething at the Western, and particularly U.S., military presence. These sentiments can give Iraq the necessary backing to consolidate its annexation of Kuwait.

The U.S. pressure on Arab countries at the Cairo meeting ended with a consensus on forming a multinational Arab force, whose presence in Saudi Arabia can eclipse even the most unprecedented concentration of Western and American forces in Saudi Arabia. However, it seems too farfetched that once it has consolidated its domination over Kuwait, Iraq will risk an attack on Saudi Arabia under such conditions. If it did, not only would it lose Kuwait but would place the existence of the Baghdad regime in question as well.

U.S. efforts to Arabize the regional crisis are aimed at shirking its responsibility for the situation created by the dispatch of thousands of its elite forces and its collection of the most modern armaments. With the presence of a multinational Arab force, every spark from the Iraqi-Kuwait powder keg will fall first on the Arab multinational force; the United States forces and its allies will subsequently benefit.

Even though it is difficult to predict the trend of events because of the complexity of the issues, the Iraqi domination of the extensive and enormous Kuwaiti oil reserves has created even more complicated difficulties in international economy and OPEC.

The very concept of Iraq having the last word in OPEC is going to be intolerable to most of the 12 member countries following the annexation of Kuwait.

The Kuwait crisis seems to have slowed down since it began 10 days ago, but this change of pace can be considered a precursor to future events or a forerunner of another crisis which would even eclipse the Kuwaiti crisis.

U.S. Opinion, Saddam Response

NC2708142790 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 9 Aug 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "The Regional Governments and the Annexation of Kuwait"]

[Text] Saddam's illegal, baseless, and audacious decision to merge Kuwait with Iraqi territory is one of those events in contemporary history worth pondering. The following points are worth noting in this regard:

1. The fact that Saddam allowed himself to supplement his territory with another country is evidence of the chaos prevailing in the contemporary world. The issue here is not whether the name of Kuwait will be erased eventually from the map of the world as an independent country. What is instead of immense significance is that a dictator has the courage to officially declare that he has annexed a certain independent country to his own territory!

We should seek the roots of such aggression in the numerous acts of military aggression which have been committed by domineering countries. That kind of aggression, and this sort of audacity, are in general, shameful events which predict an even more turbulent future.

2. In its capacity as the main lever of oppression and as it aspires to be an extortionist of the world, the United States did not show any reaction to the annexation of Kuwait and only announced that it considers itself beholden to intervene against any Iraqi aggression against Saudi Arabia. This was the sole reaction of U.S. President Bush after the official declaration of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and is thus a sort of endorsement of Saddam's action, or at least, of considering it a tolerable action.

This attitude could be geared to the fact that the United States feels the need for such a ghoul in the region. The United States will definitely endeavor to display a sort of forbearance with Saddam's audacity and blackmail in the region, within some sort of bearable limits, and to capitalize on his presence as a scarecrow to intimidate and combat the Islamic movements erupting in the region.

3. Being aware of this U.S. need, Saddam embarked on the usurpation and subsequent annexation of Kuwait. The initial announcement of a free government for Kuwait and the declaration of its annexation by Iraq within a few days means that in anticipation of the lack of any official recognition of his puppet government in Kuwait by other governments, Saddam preferred to settle the matter once and for all by his decision to annex, thus preemptively resolving this problem and all other probable ones that might have surfaced.

4. Facts and figures may indicate continued controlled economic, political, or propagandistic pressure on Saddam, but it is worth pondering the various objectives of such pressure. It is not known if the ultimate objective is

the downfall of Saddam because this objective now conflicts with the U.S. need for using Saddam as a scarecrow in the region.

5. From all these points (if they hold true), it can be deduced that conditions do not seem to be moving in a direction that would be all that harmful for Saddam. The regional states, especially the shaykhs and sultans of the southern Persian Gulf region, should do some fundamental thinking about their own futures.

Iraq's 'Service' to U.S. Criticized

NC2708195990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 14 Aug 90 pp 1,11

[Editorial: Saddam's Demagoguery"]

[Excerpts] These days the shaykhs of the region are thinking about the consequences of their acts with an aggressor regime which they equipped and encouraged.

They lack popular support and they know this better than anyone else. Thus, in order to maintain themselves, they have extended a hand to America and to NATO armies.

The vast military presence of America and NATO in the region has created an opportunity for Iraq to resort to its already known propaganda tactics and to portray itself as an anti-American regime in the region. This is nothing but hypocritical demagoguery which can only fool the simpleminded, and that for a very short time and until the truth becomes so obvious that even these simple-minded will be sorry for their naivete. [passage omitted]

It takes a lot of impudence for such a regime which has suddenly changed colors and has donned an anti-American and anti-arrogant mask. But it seems that there is a lot of impudence in the Baghdad regime. For a decade Iraq acted as the poisonous tip of the arrow of arrogance against the Islamic revolution. It perpetrated all the crimes, massacres and treacheries with the help of the dollars donated to it by the oil tycoons, and for a decade it resorted to crimes to harm the most anti-American popular movements in the region. With all these in mind and in view of Iraq's black record in the imposed war, the Baghdad regime's anti-American allegations appear extremely ridiculous.

The flames of the Islamic revolution as the largest popular revolution of the century were moving to burn up the wretched roots of Israel. But Iraq was assigned by America to stand in front of this immense popular and anti-zionist movement and to harness it. The fact that Baghdad has now adopted an anti-Israeli nature and is portraying itself as Israel's enemy is extremely ridiculous. [passage omitted]

America is a criminal and not only should the hand of America and of all the satanic powers be eliminated from the land of Hejaz and from the Persian Gulf, but their intervention in the fate of the muslims throughout the Islamic world should be ended forever. America should

be confronted. But the standardbearer of this confrontation should be sincere people who do not have a record of service to America.

America should pay for the crimes that it has perpetrated against the muslims and for having plundered the wealth of the world of Islam. But there is a basic difference between this and the demagogic utterances that have begun in the region recently. What has happened and is happening today is a political-propaganda treachery aimed at portraying one of the American servants as the symbol of anti-American struggles in the region. This is a disgusting attempt which no one takes seriously, and those who are aware of the depth of things know very well where the Baghdad regime's treacheries stem from and are aware that it does not stem from sincerity—something which the Baghdad rulers never had.

The devouring of Kuwait and the plans for the Al Sa'ud family have various motives and are a single attempt with several intentions. But what are the reasons behind it? Was it not because the al-Sabah family asked to be repaid for the assistance that it extended to the Baghdad regime during the war against the Islamic revolution and Baghdad said that since everyone had benefited from this war there was nothing to pay back? Was it not because Baghdad wanted to thus settle its debts that were accumulated during the eight years of war against the most sincere anti-American movement in the region?

Iraq's American war of yesterday and its anti-American face of today are extremely contradictory and cannot be justified by the Iraqi rulers. This is why they are resorting to treacheries. America is a criminal and its biggest crime was in that it incited Iraq and Arab reaction against the Islamic revolution. America is a criminal and its biggest crime against the people of the region and against the people of Palestine is that it forced Iraq and Arab reaction to fight against the most immense and sincere anti-Israeli movement in the region.

The biggest crime perpetrated by America and the West against the region's countries is in that it wasted the region's military capability in an eight-year confrontation with the Islamic revolution—a strength that could have been used to burn the roots of Israel once and for all. America was the perpetrator of this great treachery and naturally a regime that undertook to implement this mission could not have been an anti-American regime; and if the propaganda machinery resorts to this method, then it will only be disgracing itself.

We were the standard bearers of the true fight against America in the region during a decade. We were the ones who sincerely tried to dry up the roots of intervention by America and the enemies of Islam in the region. But the Baghdad regime has, even with its aggression against Kuwait, once again paved the way toward rendering a fresh service to America and to the other enemies of Islam.

Al Sa'ud Regime Denounced

NC2808184690 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 13 Aug 90 pp 1,9

[Editorial: "Begging for Security From the Fomenters of Insecurity"]

[Excerpts] Baghdad has used its war machine to devour Kuwait and is now planning for Hejaz so that it can put an end to the Saudis' rule.

The Al Sa'ud family, which until yesterday did not pity even the "guests to the house of God," is today disgracefully bowing down before everyone and begging for help.

The Al Sa'ud family feels that its turn has come and that it will probably not have as much time as the al-Sabah family to flee from the country and to leave the Saudi people alone to face Iraq's war machine which it itself has equipped.

The Al Sa'ud family has asked for help from Washington; and America is now thinking about its long-term plan which it has wanted to implement for years. Thus in preparing the grounds for its long-term presence in Saudi Arabia in particular and in the region in general it is—first and foremost—preparing the necessary psychological atmosphere for this extensive presence.

The behavior of Washington officials shows that they were not very upset about Iraq's military aggression against Kuwait and that even though this was "an impermissible aggression," they nevertheless practically supported it. What they did was to immediately attempt to increase the West's military presence throughout the entire region, and by paying continuous lipservice to Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, they feel that they have "the best possible propaganda justification."

These acts also are tantamount to overt efforts to besiege the Islamic revolution throughout the region. Regional countries should view the issue from this angle too and alertly keep an eye on everything. In other words, America and the NATO countries have seized a golden opportunity, and by deploying the NATO navies, they are now facing us and watching everything we do. America estimates that this military expedition will cost it \$10 million a day, and the Al Sa'ud regime has undertaken to cover all the expenses by giving free oil to America.

The Al Sa'ud family has turned to someone for help with its security who is the main reason for the existence of insecurity in the region over the last decade. Asking for help from its masters may be the only alternative for the Al Sa'ud regime which sees its existence being threatened. But what is happening in the region today is extremely tormenting and bitter for the regional countries; and it is yet more bitter for the people of Hejaz who will be footing the heavy bill for safeguarding the throne of the corrupt Al Sa'ud regime by paying with its oil income.

During an entire decade, America and the West have created a hotbed in the region with the help of these very

courts and with the help of the wealth of the region's nations. And now the al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud families bitterly see how the fires which they lit yesterday are burning them also and that they should pay for their continuous treacheries and burn in a fire they have created.

Despite all this, America and the Al Sa'ud court have clarified that the deployment of foreign forces in Saudi Arabia is not aimed at attacking Iraqi forces. Even if this point was not clarified, it was very obvious that no one is prepared to make any sacrifices for the sake of the Shaykh of Kuwait and for returning him to power, and that if Washington's threats against Iraq are heard these are only sham threats and a pretext for this immense military expedition by NATO forces to the region. [passage omitted]

The incompetence of the Al Sa'ud family to manage the holy shrines, corruption in the courts, the occupation of the holy shrines by America, and—most important of all—the hellish domination of the enemies of Islam over the fate of the Muslims of the region are major points which our revolution has revealed. And in order to put an end to this disgraceful situation, everyone should try to understand what the problems are and shoulder responsibilities.

We were the ones who warned about the the bitter consequences of "encouraging the aggressor." And today the al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud families feel that this encouragement is the fire which has burned their own roots, and that no one, not even America, can do anything. This is the point that burns the al-Sabah and the Al Sa'ud more than anything else.

U.S. Presence, PGCC Criticized

LD3008084290 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT
30 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in its weekly commentary Thursday said that following the U.S. and NATO military expedition, the Persian Gulf region is turned into a "depot of gunpowder" and that any hasty and improper move could put the course of events in an irreversible direction.

Undoubtedly the U.S. and its allies by dispatching their armies to the region meant to preserve their own interests rather than helping their friendly governments as it has been claimed. The West aims at stabilizing its position in the region and giving legitimacy to its military presence, said the daily. It added, however, that the major obstacle to the U.S. aggression is the wrath of Muslims who feel that Washington by occupying the Islamic holy lands and dominating Islamic holy places is up to "humiliating Muslims".

The paper lashed out at the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) and said it has proved in practice that it is an empty drum, unable to protect interests of the members in face of any aggression. This was the case in Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it added. "Not only the council as a body did not react to the aggression, but instead its

each individual members urged foreign countries to intervene directly in a bid to safeguard the security, stability and integrity of their own countries," it pointed out. In the aftermath of the aggression the PGCC neither called for a session nor issued a single communique, concluded the commentary.

***BAYAN Article on Foreign Policy Attacked**

90AS0342B Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
28 Jul 90 p 6

[Article entitled "'Issues in Foreign Policy' and a Response to It" by Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili]

[Text] Dear Editor-in-Chief of ETTELA'AT,

With greetings and wishes for the success of all true servants of the Islamic revolution, I would like to state that in the first issue of BAYAN, an article entitled "Issues and Problems in Foreign Policy" was published. This article, which was published under the pretext of a book review, refers to a speech by me in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985]. Quoting a segment of that speech, the writer expresses his own opinion. I sent the enclosed response to be published in that magazine in accordance with the press law. Most unfortunately, my response was not published in the following issue of the magazine. Hence, I request that your honorable newspaper publish my response to the article in BAYAN, and expect that you will, in order to protect the social rights of individuals and support the freedom of the press.

Response to the issues raised in "Issues and Problems in Foreign Policy."

Honorable Editor-in-Chief of BAYAN,

In the book review section of the first issue of the magazine, an article entitled "Issues and Problems in Foreign Policy" was published. Considering its failure to remain impartial with regard to the content as well as the baselessness of the analyses and the accusations against one of the servants of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have found it necessary to send the following response for publication in that magazine in accordance with the press law and regulations, even though the author of the above-mentioned article, fully aware of the forgeries he has written, has not deemed it in his best interests to mention his own name and accept responsibility for his writing and for the defense of the freedom of the press in the country.

The article "Issues and Problems in Foreign Policy" states that in the second half of 1363 [1984-85], upon the request of the College of Martyr Motahhari, I made a speech for the students of that school entitled "National Security" (which was published in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] in limited edition book form). The author of the above-mentioned article quotes a very small portion of my speech and then, with a series of generalizations and slogans which are nothing more than "propaganda noise making," tries to inculcate his own

views by mixing together apples and oranges, as it were. Undoubtedly, anyone who reads this so-called book review will realize that the purpose of the author, under the pretext of writing a "book review," is to attack my name and personal and social reputation and under this pretext on the domestic scene to take up a battle position against ideological currents which differ from his own. Fortunately, the high officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic are well aware of the history of the political and intellectual conduct existing in the country and are quite familiar with the motives of individuals in expressing and publishing articles. It is also clear what persons at what periods write on what issues and for what purposes. Most fortunately, on the domestic scene, the articulation of repetitive, extreme, superficial and hasty issues with the goal of threatening freedom of thought has been very thoroughly experienced and has proven to everyone to be without content or foundation. This is not the first time that a particular ideology has tried to create propaganda chaos with the goal of frightening its opponents. Selective reactions to the positions of the late grand leader of the Islamic revolution, ascribing one's own personal taste to the Imam of the people, and using any means to attain one's goal have been experienced before as well.

Claiming to be the only one to follow the Imam's line is also an issue that is unreasonable, and those who claim it must give up this idea. Fortunately, our alert and mindful people are quite familiar with these tricks, and by eliminating the slogan-mongers from the domestic political scene they are engaged in the economic and social reconstruction of the country. Yes, people who by sacrificing their lives and property stand for the goals of the revolution can distinguish quite well the pure from the impure. The author of the so-called book review in BAYAN evaluates an important and serious issue by quoting one sentence from my speech. He quotes:

"The function of diplomacy in the area of achieving national security is changing the enemies in deed to potential enemies, potential enemies to potential friends, and potential friends to friends in deed." Using this sentence from my speech, in his analysis, the giant step that I have taken is to disrupt the standards and values in foreign policy which were clarified and emphasized by the Imam, and this step was to break the ice in the Iran-U.S. relationship.

Here the question arises: From which part of my statements has he come to the conclusion that my efforts are to break the ice in Iran-U.S. relations? In response to the distinguished author, I must say, "If you have already made such a decision and insist on it in order to achieve your goal, that is your business."

The author of the review, who quotes a portion of my speech and issues a general and decisive ruling, has not specified what in his view should be the doctrine of national security and whether or not in his opinion the function of diplomacy is to change all the friends in deed of the regime to the enemies in deed, or whether what he understands of the

Imam's views—he who even doubts the facts—is that his honor followed such a goal in foreign policy and that I have taken a giant step toward disrupting these standards and values drawn by the Imam.

The author of the book review in BAYAN writes about me that "Kazempur-Ardabili was the minister of commerce, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and deputy minister of petroleum, and has recently been ambassador of Iran to Japan, and due to his particular political inclinations, he has entered politics, and his views have been noted." He then adds:

"These views are not academic and only clearly state his inclination." I do not know the biography and history of the author of the so-called review, but I am sure that he knows me better and he knows that I was minister of commerce in the Cabinet of Martyr Raja'i and was confirmed by the Majles. Under the rubble of the explosion at the Islamic Republican Party, I was a fellow traveler with the martyrs [in the path] of the revolution and lost my left ear in the criminal act of the hypocrites. I have been involved in the political currents and am familiar with the method of work and writing of those who take issues out of context and the propaganda games they play. According to the martyred and living officials of the regime, I have been one of the most successful servants in the political and executive affairs of the country wherever I have worked.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I worked as deputy minister for international and economic affairs and from that point on, I have rationally and logically confronted the extremist and opportunistic political currents and have always followed the standards of independent thinking and clarity of expression in my work. The author of the article also knows well that in the course of my service, I have not hired out my pen to any group and have not climbed the ladder of success by pretending to be a radical. What has made my statements draw attention are the views that I expressed, which the listeners already understood, but they would keep silent because of the rabble-rousing and the creation of a climate of blackmail by certain individuals.

I am certain that my views have been noted and welcomed because they were the views of the informed. Day by day, as the slogan-monger groups fail to sell their goods, the Hezbollah nation will realize more clearly the truth of what I clearly stated a long time ago.

***Reyshahri Memoir Discusses Fall of Montazeri**

90AS0342A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
5 Aug 90 p 10

[Article entitled "The Mehdi Hashemi Phenomenon: A Touchstone for Evaluation" by Baqer 'Alavi]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate and the Merciful.

The publication of the "political memoirs" of Hojjat ol-Islam Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the prosecutor general, concerning issues that resulted in one of the most painful and instructive events in the history of the Islamic revolution—the dismissal of Mr. Montazeri and the evil actions of some of his supporters in the past 16 months in questioning the essential positions of Imam Khomeyni, peace be upon him, and the honorable officials of the Islamic Republic regime, as well as the revitalization and bringing on the scene once again of those who had been rejected by the leader of the Islamic revolution—prompted us to once again take a look at the deviant and conspiratorial phenomenon of Mehdi Hashemi. Of course, with the support and power of God and the lofty and angelic spirit of the founder of the Islamic Republic, we shall look at it from an angle that has heretofore not been noted much but has essentially been neglected.¹

We shall study the Mehdi Hashemi phenomenon as a "touchstone" for evaluating the capability and qualifications of Mr. Montazeri in regard to political issues, his qualifications for becoming the source of emulation and issuing religious decrees; a touchstone to demonstrate the consummate wisdom and profound thinking of the one who journeyed to eternity and who left millions who loved him in expectation, evaluating the destructive effects of the "influence phenomenon" which threatens anyone with wealth; a touchstone for showing the "discrepancy between words and actions" in the personality of those who claim to teach and write hundreds of pages about the lofty position of religious guardians in the vast ocean of Islamic knowledge, but who in practice have not submitted and will not submit to the most decisive decrees of the religious guardian; a touchstone for showing the fate of the so-called revolutionaries whose extreme pride and selfishness lends them to go astray from the path of obedience and cross into the realm of rational reasoning and replace divine inspiration and the position of religious guardian with personal reasoning; and finally a touchstone for evaluating faith and loyalty to the path and line of the Imam, as exemplified certainly by the reaction to the episode of Mr. Montazeri.

The necessity of raising the discussion:

An overview of the above-mentioned readings, which will be presented in several issues of the newspaper, will also clarify the necessity of bringing up the discussion. But moreover, we can:

Point out the statements of the remnants of the deviant Mehdi Hashemi phenomenon and the gullible simpletons who say, "Undoubtedly, the strong support of Mr. Montazeri for the Mehdi Hashemi phenomenon was a great mistake and a clear transgression which no one can defend, but everyone makes mistakes, and we must not because of one mistake question the scholarly, political, and combative position of a recognized personality, especially when a certain amount of time has passed."

In general, this statement is correct, but not on the whole or with regard to everything and everyone. Often transgressions result in irreparable damage. There are transgressions that make questionable not only the authenticity and correctness of a decision, but the power of reasoning and decision making, political knowledge, justice and piety of the decision maker. And there are transgressions that bring a person down from the height of honor, credibility, and glory to the depths of dishonor, loss of credibility, and humiliation. Hence, we must evaluate the kind of transgression and its consequences and then judge accordingly. Therefore, a discussion of some transgressions can teach historical lessons and serve those who possess understanding to learn and avoid [such transgressions].

Moreover, under the circumstances, when a number of people are trying to question and distort the position of Imam Khomeyni which is authentic and pleasing to God in regard to the issue of Mehdi Hashemi and Mr. Montazeri, how can we say that with the passage of time the issue has been forgotten and its pursuit must be avoided or follow the slogan "falsehood disappears when its mention is dropped" [Arabic phrase] and avoid the issue?

Besides, it must be admitted that this great and bitter event in the revolution was not analyzed and studied as it should have been, and if this deficiency is not corrected, in the future there shall certainly be ambiguities in examining the aspects of this event.

While the late leader of the Islamic revolution left the clarification and explanation of the dimensions of the issue to the future, in his message dated 26/1/68 [15 April 1989] addressing the representatives of the Majles and ministers, he said: "God willing, the brothers and sisters shall understand the matter more clearly in the future."

Therefore, there are many reasons for pursuing and examining the issues that resulted in the dismissal of Mr. Montazeri. Accordingly, we shall accomplish our mission in this area, "God willing".

'The main part of the documentation in this discussion has been taken from POLITICAL MEMOIRS by Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri.

Pakistan

Minister Accuses Former PPP Minister of Murder

*BK3008051790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 30 Aug 90*

[Text] Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, the federal minister for industry and a prominent Pakistan Muslim League leader, said the report by the commission of inquiry into the Islamabad shooting incident in February last year has exposed the attempt by the former Pakistan People's Party government to characterize a purely religious procession as a politically motivated gathering. In a statement in Islamabad, he said that in the light of the commission's report the then interior minister Aitzaz

Ahsan, who issued instructions to deal sternly with the procession, needs to be tried in court on the charge of killing seven innocent people.

Minister Sends Letter to U.S. Senator on Bhutto

*BK2808120590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 28 Aug 90*

[Text] The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Sayeda Abida Hussain, has described as totally incorrect and based on misinformation the apprehension expressed by the U.S. senator, Barbara A. Mikulski, in a letter to the president about the welfare of the former prime minister. Clarifying the position on behalf of the president, she said Ms. Benazir Bhutto has been extended all courtesies due to her being a former prime minister. She has enjoyed complete freedom of movement and speech since the 6th of this month and has occasionally met representatives of the national and international press.

In a letter addressed to the U.S. senator, the information minister said action taken by the president was in total conformity with the Constitution of Pakistan.

Courts File Petitions Against Bhutto Dismissal

*BK2908161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] In Pakistan, the division bench of the Sindh High Court has admitted a petition challenging President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's order dissolving the National Assembly and dismissal of Ms. Benazir Bhutto as prime minister.

The Balochistan High Court in a related development has issued preadmission notice to the Government of Pakistan on a similar petition.

AIR [All India Radio] special correspondent in Islamabad, Suresh Chopra, says that a full bench of Peshawar High Court has already taken up for hearing an identical petition in which it is urged that the status quo ante as it existed on 6 August when Ms. Bhutto was dismissed be restored.

Prime Minister Chairs Sindh Cabinet Session

*BK2908160590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi presided over the Sindh cabinet session in Karachi today. Sindh Governor Mahmud A. Haroon was also present at the session. Among other things, the session reviewed the program for the upcoming general elections, the strategy to hold elections in a peaceful atmosphere, and arrangements for electioneering.

Later, speaking to newsmen, Chief Minister Sadiq Ali said the session discussed in detail matters pertaining to various stages of the election process. He said a provincial

election cell is being opened in Karachi, which will be headed by himself. The cell will comprise five cabinet members who will start working as of tomorrow. He said the law and order situation in the province was also discussed in detail and the prime minister was apprised of the steps taken by the Sindh government to improve the situation. The session also reviewed the availability and prices of essential commodities and it expressed satisfaction that the trend of rising prices has been stemmed due to the timely efforts of the present government.

President Expresses Concern Over Gulf Situation

*BK2908164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation in the Gulf and stressed the need for an early peaceful solution of the crisis. He was talking to the ambassador of Tunisia, Mr. Mohamed Trabelsi, who paid a farewell call on him in Islamabad today. The president said that Pakistan had always adopted a principled approach toward outside military intervention and aggression against any country.

2,200 Nationals Travel to Pakistan via Iran

*BK2908164890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] About 2,200 Pakistanis have crossed over into Pakistan through the land route via Pak-Iran border till this morning. This information was given to the committee overseeing arrangements for repatriation of Pakistanis stranded in Kuwait at its meeting in Islamabad today.

PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] operated three special flights today to bring back home 770 stranded Pakistanis from Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Three more flights will be operated tomorrow from Amman and Riyadh to Karachi to repatriate about a similar number of Pakistanis.

The federal minister for labor, manpower, and overseas Pakistanis, Mir Mohammad Nasir Mangal, was told during a briefing in Islamabad today that 22,000 Pakistanis had crossed the Kuwaiti border through its neighboring country and hectic efforts were being made to bring them back to Pakistan.

Minister on Indian Electricity Project Protest

*BK2708162190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] The Senate today continued its debate on the presidential order for the dissolution of the National Assembly and the federal cabinet. [passage omitted]

Speaking on an adjournment motion sought by Professor Khurshid Ahmad, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz announced that Pakistan has protested over the design of the hydroelectric plant which is under construction by

India across Jhelum river in Uri sector near Baramulla and that the construction work has been stopped. He said under the Indus Basin Treaty, India is bound to provide Pakistan with a design of any plant it wants to construct. The mover did not press on his motion. However, it has been referred to the Senate committee on water and electricity for a detailed discussion.

During question hour, the house was informed that the government has begun investigations into the issue of employees of Grade 16 and above kept under suspension by the former government. The house was informed about this by Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz in response to a query by Professor Khurshid Ahmad.

In reply to another question, the finance minister said without implementing the normal electoral procedures the former government had appointed four community welfare attaches abroad on a political basis. He assured the house that their matters can also be reviewed.

The house will meet again tomorrow afternoon.

49 Kg Heroin Powder Seized by Customs in Bannu

*BK2608025590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
25 Aug 90 p 8*

[Text] Peshawar, Aug 24—Fortynine kilograms of heroin powder was seized by the Customs Mobile Squad, Bannu, from a double bodied truck going from Kohat to Bannu Friday [24 August].

Drug Trafficking Ring Broken in Baluchistan

*BK2608030090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
25 Aug 90 p 6*

[Text] Quetta, Aug 24—After exchange of heavy fire in Chagai District along Pak-Afghan border, Frontier Corps [FC] Balochistan smashed a gang of drug traffickers.

On a tip-off Inspector General Frontier Corps Balochistan Maj Gen Sardar Khalid, alerted Kharan Rifles against smuggling of drugs into Pakistan from Afghanistan along Pak-Afghan border. Kharan Rifles, wing of FC Balochistan, took up their positions along suspected routes. They spotted a vehicle entering into Balochistan. They cautioned the vehicle.

Instead of stopping the inmates opened fire on the Kharan Rifles, which was returned.

The exchange of fire continued for more than one hour. Later, the smugglers escaped into the Afghan territory, leaving behind their vehicle. On search, Kharan Rifles seized one thousand kilograms of raw opium. They also recovered a 12.7 mm anti-aircraft gun from the vehicle.

Sri Lanka**Iran Offers Assistance in Evacuating Nationals**

*BK2908131990 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] Sri Lankans stranded in Kuwait can pass through Iran on their way to Sri Lanka. This decision has been announced by the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sri Lanka. The announcement further says that the Iranian Government will render any necessary assistance to them and [word indistinct] all arrangements to return home by any form of conveyance available.

Defense Minister Denies Bombing of Civilians

*BK3008100890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Aug 90*

[Text] The Sri Lankan minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, has denied that there has been indiscriminate bombing and killing of civilians in the Jaffna Peninsula during the current offensive in the north. He told newsmen in Colombo today that the attack is only against LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] positions and bunkers in the peninsula. He said the Army is building up the damaged Pannai causeway linking Mandaitivu and Jaffna Town.

The minister informed that about 100 LTTE men were killed and 1,000 mines have been cleared in Mandaitivu area where the Army has undertaken distribution of food to Tamil civilians. He alleged that it is the LTTE that is hindering distribution of food among the public.

Meanwhile, military officials said efforts to relieve over 200 policemen and soldiers at an old Dutch fort in the northern Jaffna City suffered a setback as rebels blew up several bridges and culverts yesterday.

34 LTTE Men Killed in Northeast Fighting

*BK2908101890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 29 Aug 90*

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 34 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadre are reported killed in the continuing clashes between security forces and the militants in the northeast. Our Colombo correspondent Karupaswamy quoting official sources reports that 14 LTTE militants were killed in an ambush in Ampara District. Six LTTE men were killed in (Menihootam) and Malwatta areas in the district. In Batticaloa, four militants and a civilian were killed at Vandaramoolai. Heavy fighting continues around Jaffna Fort, Kankesanthurai, and Elephant Pass.

Meanwhile, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, is visiting Jaffna today to take stock of the ground situation in the peninsula.